

FOURTH DAY

Friday 20 July 2018

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

The Draft Hansard is uncorrected. It is also privileged. Members have one week from the date of this issue of Draft Hansard in which to make corrections to their speeches. Until the expiration of this one week period, Draft Hansard must not be quoted as final and accurate report of the debates of the National Parliament.

Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A1 - 23 (next to the Security Control Room).

Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making corrections.

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

Corrections should relate only to inaccuracies. New matters may not be introduced.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LEE SIROTE', written over a horizontal line.

LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 20 July 2018

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Jeffery Pesab Komal**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

There being no quorum present, Mr Deputy Speaker stated that he would resume the Chair after the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.50 a.m., and invited the Member for, Samarai Murua, **Honourable Isi Henry Leonard**, to say Prayers:

‘Oh divine Father we come before your throne of grace and submit ourselves as servants. This morning we exalt you as our true living God all mighty and all powerful. This morning, as human beings we come with all our defaults and our sinfulness and we ask for your forgiveness. Mighty God, this morning, we ask that you cleanse us with the blood of Jesus so that we become worthy to enter your throne of grace to seek your guidance and directions. Mighty God, this morning, I uphold our Speaker, may you bless him as he guides and conducts this very important session. I also pray for our Prime Minister, Mighty God may you bless him. Give him the wisdom and the strength to continue to lead and to guide this great country. I also pray for all the Minister Mighty God, may you guide them as well as the Opposition Leader, may you guided him and direct him too as he continues to lead the alternative government. Mighty God bless all the Opposition Members and all the MPs in this House this morning. I commit to you all the business that will be deliberated in this session. May you go before us and guide us as we deliberate on these very important issues affecting this great nation. Mighty God before we can go into our business, we invite your presence by upholding the Prayer taught to us by Jesus. Amen.’

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (Mr James Pokasui Yawo) –
STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform Parliament of the following death on 13 July 2018 of Mr James Pokasui, a former Member for Manus Open Electorate in the Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987. He lost in a recount ordered by the Court of Dispute Returns in 28 October, 1982. He was re-elected to the same seat in the Fourth National Parliament from 1987 to 1992 and was appointed Minister for Defence from August 1987 to July 1988. He was disqualified by Court of Disputed Returns on 10 August 1989.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentlemen, I invite all honourable Members to rise in their places.

All Members stood in silence as a mark of respect of the late Gentleman.

02/04

QUESTIONS

Sale of NHC Property

Mr JOHNSON WAPUNAI – Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Housing. I have noticed in Morobe and West Sepik that official government residents are been sold off by government employees.

The Staff of National Housing Corporation in Wewak are also sold a property.

My questions are:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of this sale?
- (2) If he is aware, what was the method of payment used to make these purchases?
- (3) Can the Minister inform the House the type of penalties these officers will face should they be found guilty?

Mr JOHN KAUPA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Ambunti-Drekikir for asking these very important questions. The National Housing Corporation in Wewak serves the entire East Sepik Province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to inform this House that I am aware of the sale of this property. I took office in June 2017. This property was sold in June weeks leading up to the

election period. There was no proper evaluation done on the property. This property was erected by the Australian Government and used as an office and is not supposed to be sold by the NHC staff. But somehow this property was sold without following proper NHC process and procedures.

The approval of the board was not sought for the sale of this property to be effected. So when I learnt this, I wrote to the Minister for Lands to put a caveat on that property and so the title is yet to be transferred. Since a caveat is already in place we will check and find out whether they are holding onto a fake title probably obtained from within the office or elsewhere.

A bank cheque of K400 000 was paid into the NHC Account. Another person also paid K500 000 cash for the same property. So actually, two foreign companies purchased the property.

That is why Members from the East Sepik are pressuring me to investigate whether the sale was correctly done. I would like to inform the House that the sale was not done properly. So I am taking that office back to NHC because due process was not followed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are similar issues in Samarai, Kavieng and other centres and I also wrote to the Minister for Lands, and we are working on it to get those offices back.

Similarly, there are other run-down properties in the country which have also been sold so we are working on it to see whether due processes are followed.

I am sorry for what happened in Wewak because June 2017 was election period and this was the time the payments were made, either through cheque or cash payment. So we all understand that NHC was a major issue at that time.

03/04

Investigations are continuing and it is not only with Wewak but the other provinces as well. I have made a submission to NEC for the endorsement of recovery exercise that will involve Police, valuers and all the stakeholders that will participate in this nationwide recovery exercise to establish the asset registry. The submission is before the NEC for its approval so that they will allocate funding for us to move into the four regions of this country to do the asset registry so that we have a clear report so NHC will have a clear idea as to what its properties are worth around the country and how many there are.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the citizens and public servants of this country need a decent place to stay and housing is the foundation of a family unit. The House is where we accommodate

and have the privacy of our families. This Government is therefore emphasising on building more houses for the people of this country.

I thank the Member for Ambunti-Drekikir for his questions. For the Wewak case, we are working on it and from our investigations, those implicated will be apprehended as the report is already with the fraud squad.

I have already reported and it is now a State matter which I cannot interfere in but with regards to the two investors we are working to find ways to whether to refund their money or do something else. We are trying to find an amicable way so that we can bring the office back.

PM's Undertaking on LLG Elections

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

This is directly related to one of the questions raised in the East Sepik Provincial Assembly. On 7 February, 2018, I asked the Prime Minister a series of questions regarding the Local Level Government Elections. The Prime Minister gave several very clear directives which I was quite happy with. But since then the Electoral Commission and other related institutions have decided to go a long way from the undertakings that the Prime Minister has taken in this House.

I would like to quote from the *Hansard* in relation to the questions I asked the Prime Minister. *“But first let me say that we will be having Council Elections probably in June or July 2018. And any changes that may be contemplated will take place after the elections. There is no point in creating uncertainty in the minds of our people right throughout the country, whilst the election process is taking place. At the same time I have also decided that election of council presidents, either by the people in the LLGs directly or by the ward councillors, will be optional. It is up to individual province to decide which option is appropriate for them. There are provinces in the country where they wish to have their council presidents elected by the people and that is fine. There are other provinces where they want the ward councillors to elect the president, so we will allow the options to the provinces.”*

Mr Deputy Speaker, these are the undertaking that the Prime Minister of the country made in this Parliament. In my view these are very significant undertakings by the Prime Minister in this House as a policy directive of the Government.

My questions are:-

(1) Is this undertaking still valid or is it now being over-ridden by some underlings that work for the Prime Minister?

04/04

(2) Is the reversal of policy that the Prime Minister gave in this House consistent with his commitment on greater provincial autonomy?

(3) Will we still be accorded the rights as given in this undertaking as to how LLG Elections are undertaken in our respective provinces?

(4) Can the Prime Minister inform this Parliament, if he is willing to discipline those under him so that they remain consistent with the undertakings he has given in this House?

(5) If the Prime Minister is unwilling to do that, then do we take it that any undertakings made in this House by the Prime Minister or his ministers as policy directions are not policy directives but are simply speaking like any other ordinary member in the House?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the honourable Governor of East Sepik for his very important questions.

Firstly, on the issue of my directions and my commitments, let me tell you that I have made those statements in this honourable House and they stand. If anybody does not like them than they can go and find another job. So, you can take it from me that the instructions remain as I have stated.

Secondly, let me say that the issue about the dates of elections will take place as soon as we get legal advice from the Inter-Government Relations Minister because we had some conflicting legal advice on the delays of the dates that we have set. We will make that clarity next week as soon as the Attorney-General and his office give us a very clear legal advice on our position on when we can have the elections, given the fact that there are outstanding allowances that are being claimed by many councillors and presidents right throughout the country that we need to settle. That is the position of the Government so I will announce that next week.

In terms of the election of the presidents, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is not a new thing. We have practised that in the past where some provinces have allowed their entire LLG to vote for their presidents and others have allowed the ward councillors to elect there president. So it is not something new and people should not be misleading the public and making statements that are going to confuse everybody. We have had that practise in the past elections so we will continue as I have stated in my reply to you in February.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as I said, if anyone doesn't like my instructions then they can go and find another job.

Thank you.

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister for Health, Sir Honourable Puka Temu.

I want to firstly commend him for taking charge of the National Department of Health and responding swiftly to the Polio issue that is affecting the country.

Extend Polio Vaccination Program to Oro

(1) Can the Minister consider including the Northern Province, given that we share borders with the Morobe Province where the outbreak was discovered?

We have put in place some of a plan or but we will need your support in that regard.

In regards to a current ongoing problem which is affecting the health and well-being of the Northern Province, in particular it is to do with the CEO of Popondetta General Hospital and the board which the National Health Department is responsible, I believe.

Mr Deputy Speaker, currently there is a serious issue with grave consequences. In fact, I have received reports that seven deaths are attributed to this situation. Whether or not it is factual, it remains to be investigated, however, it comes from workers of that hospital.

05/04

Resolve Hospital Board Issue

I was informed that the CEO has been suspended by the board and he has taken the matter to court. May I ask if there can be an intervention by the Department of Health, because this is an issue that needs to be addressed by the department with the assistance from the Department of Personnel Management?

I have met with both CEO and the board to try understand the situation but I found out that there are serious issues raised by both parties. These issues need to be thoroughly investigated so that normalcy can be restored and delivery of health services provided by the hospital can be activated once more. Hospital staff have taken sides with doctors threatening to walk off from their jobs.

(2) Will the Minister inform this Parliament what actions have been taken to rectify this issue to address this particular matter, and when can it be resolved so that normalcy can be restored?

(3) Will the CEO be reinstated or new acting CEO be appointed until such time when the position is being advertised so that the people of Oro can be informed?

Health Transit Warehouse

I have raised this in the last term of Parliament and it's in relation to health transit warehouse. This contract was awarded to a person who had no knowledge of how to build a chicken house but he was awarded this contract. And upon taking this contract he was paid and he purchased vehicles which he then put to hire in the Southern Highlands. And this health transit warehouse remains unbuilt to date.

I was given an undertaking by your predecessor that it will be addressed but nothing has been done.

(4) Are you aware of this and what actions will be taken by your ministry to ensure that this health transit warehouse is actually in operation so that it can serve the people of Oro?

Status of Operating Theatre

(5) Why is the operating theatre not in operation?

It was built at significant costs to this country. Just recently the Prime Minister, myself and a number of other members of Parliament visited the operating theatre and it was in good condition but to date it's not in operation.

(6) Can the Minister inform us of the status of this particular infrastructure and what action will his department take?

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the honourable Governor of Oro for his series of questions and the concerns that he has for Oro.

Firstly, on the request for whether Oro can be included in the polio vaccination program, as you saw in the daily newspapers today, many mothers in Morobe Province are very happy that the immunisation program has been brought to them.

As I mentioned in the previous meeting, about 108 000 children in Oro are targeted so we will achieve this target in two weeks. Every two weeks we will do the operation and have a break to asses.

During the operations we also carrying out the surveillance as well because of the ability of the polio to move to other children as it happened. The program will run for 12 months.

Honourable Governor, your concern is true, so once the surveillance advices that there are some possible outbreak then the current total provincial immunisation program will then extend throughout the country. It's a 12-month program work but by October we will re-assess the situation and if our surveillance programs indicates that there are some possibilities of spread then we will definitely include the nearby provinces like what we did to NCD, because of the greater movements of our people to Port Moresby city.

I can assure the Governor but I want to make a request to him to ensure that the routine immunisation programs are maintained. I have been advised that the immunisation coverage throughout the country has fallen below the golden standard set by World Health Organization (WHO) of 80 per cent, we are below 60 per cent at the moment.

06/04

On the issue of the current saga happening in the Popondetta General Hospital with regard to the suspension of the CEO by the board, I called the board to my office last week and we had a discussion. The advice from the Department of Personnel Management was that the suspension was not proper therefore the Chairman and the team have agreed under my directive to reinstate the CEO.

The CEO will be reinstated and if the allegations are serious enough then they will follow the right procedures and appoint a new CEO consequently. I want to inform the country that the CEO will be re-appointed. Many staff have supported him. I do not support anybody so I will follow the procedures and determine the seriousness of the allegations.

I have instructed the Secretary to go and investigate find out what we have to do. I hope that all staff are back and are providing the necessary services.

With regard to the issue of the health transit warehouse, I was not aware of it but this year, we have budgeted K3 million to support provincial health warehouses. My plan is to get the provincial health authorities to make decisions on the logistics of distributing the medical supplies to the facilities.

Currently, the National Government through CSTB is awarding contracts to logistics companies but with the transit houses with K3 million for 2018, we are targeting provinces that have not yet gotten their supplies. If governors and Open members have some support then please assist so that we can complete that exercise.

However, I will investigate why Oro Provincial Transit House has not been completed. We have K3 million in the Budget to help out so I will see where we can assist. With regard to the operating theatre the story is that it was completed but when the standard officers went, there were some areas that were not consistent with the theatre operating standards. Those areas will be readdressed to meet the operating standards. We will open it once everything is in order.

Supplementary Question

Commitment by Former Health Minister

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Mr Deputy Speaker, the former Member for Moresby North-West accompanied me to the opening of a health facility in my electorate in West Mekeo, which I visited yesterday with my governor in an electoral visit.

At 8 o'clock last night, we were both informed that the commitment made by the former minister for and on behalf of the Government, totalling K1 million, has yet to be received. We had to go to the extent of explaining to the people, especially the staff about the current situation this Government is in. We said it was a commitment by a State Minister during that visit.

07/04

As we all know, any statement or word uttered from the mouth of a leader or a State Minister is a government commitment so, on behalf of my people, I want the Minister to explain as to whether or not the sub-health centre is able to receive such funding either through next year's Budget, or was it just a mere statement by a Minister of State that cannot be honoured?

Sir PUKA TEMU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Kairuku-Hiri for disclosing the commitment made by predecessor to the St. Gerald's Veifa Health Centre run by the Catholic Church.

I understand through the Treasurer that K100 000 was given to the health centre but I will make an undertaking to see what was the basis of that K1million. If it is to upgrade the health centre to a proper health centre to meet the standards that we have then I will assure the Honourable Member that we will be able meet the commitment either through this year or make sure that we include it in next year's Budget.

Defunct Cooperative Societies – Investments and Assets

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before Independence, Cooperative Societies operated as the main businesses for Papua New Guineans in our country. In 1975 a legislation was passed in which the legislation governing these societies was repealed and replaced by the *Companies Act*.

What has happened since then, Mr Deputy Speaker, is that many of these societies were wound up and liquidators appointed but the shareholders of these societies and their

descendants, especially from my province have been on a trail of the investments that these cooperative societies undertook in the late the 50s, the 60, and the 70s, leading up to 1975 when the act was repealed.

Investments, according to the investigations that we've undertaken by Gulf Provincial Government upon my direction in 2004 when I was the governor, as well as the people themselves, have indicated that there were investments in stocks and in debentures on the Australian Stock Exchange as well as investments in properties and in asserts, especially in Port Moresby.

A lot of requests have been made to the department and to the Ministry of Commerce which has fallen on deaf ears up to today, including a letter from me to your minister at the beginning of the year.

My questions are as follows:

(1) Are you aware of this situation that has happened with Cooperatives in our country?

(2) If not, are you aware of the whereabouts of the assets and the investments of these Cooperatives, even though they are defunct and have been placed into liquidation?

(3) If you are not aware, is the Government willing to institute an independent investigation and report to Parliament so that that report can be tabled for the benefit of the dependents as well as those few who are still alive, as to where and what has happened to their investments.

08/04

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Honourable Governor of Gulf for his questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that the Cooperative Society in many parts of the country no longer exist and as he has rightfully stated. Many of these societies have been liquidated.

I am not aware of the whereabouts of the distribution of the liquidated assets or the funds from those liquidated assets. I ask the Governor to provide me some correspondence and some evidence about his claim that some shares were traded in the Australian Stock Exchange, and that there are some properties that belong to some societies that he is referring to.

I will certainly on that basis get an independent investigator to investigate and report back to this Parliament as well.

Also, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will direct the department and the Minister to make a statement to this Honourable House on the issues surrounding the Cooperative Societies and where some of these assets are so that our people are made aware of the actual position.

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst on that, I am also aware that there are some claims against the State that are before the Courts, particularly on timber harvesting and permits that were issued before our country gained independence during colonial administration under the Australian Commonwealth Government. Some of those claims have already been decided by our National Court and our Attorney General's Office is taking carriage of that. I am certain that in respect to the co-operative societies we can have the same sort of outcome if the documentation is in order.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Upgrade POM General Hospital

Mr KOI TRAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Health HIV and AIDS. He is very busy in Parliament now, so I will ask him one simple question regarding Port Moresby General Hospital.

Recently, the Minister announced the upgrading of the Port Moresby General Hospital to a level seven. A total K20 million was provided in the 2018 Budget for this purpose.

A lot of our people have been seeking medical treatment in the Philippines and Singapore.

Can the Minister tell the House and the people of Papua New Guinea, when he will fulfil this commitment?

Sir PUKA TEMU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Government Whip and the Honourable Member for Mul-Baiyer for this important question.

As the Honourable Member rightfully said, many of our citizens needing specialist services like heart operations or kidney transplant or cancer treatment are going overseas. It has become a very expensive exercise for many of the families in our country, even for Members of Parliament who had those illnesses and have sought treatment overseas.

The commitment that our Prime Minister has made through me is to upgrade Port Moresby General Hospital to a level seven hospital. At the moment it is a level five hospital.

09/04

We do not have the cancer services. We do not have the heart operations or coronary investigations like cardiac angiography for those who have suffered heart attacks and need heart by-pass operations. So, these are not available.

Mr Deputy Speaker, under the Treasury support, K30 million, and not K20 million, was allocated to Port Moresby General Hospital for me to ensure that the Coronary Care Unit, Cardiac and unit, the cancer and kidney unit is established in Port Moresby.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have the greatest pleasure to inform our people that August this year the coronary, angiography and coronary care unit will be officially opened.

Thanks to the leadership of the Chairman of the Hospital Board, Sir Theo, and to the very hard working CEO and the team, that I have the greatest pleasure to announce today that because of the strong effort through the hospital board under the Chairman's leadership, they are now ready to open these units in August this year.

I thank the leadership that is provided. I thank the Minister for Planning and Treasury for releasing K15 million of the K30 million which was appropriated. That is now complete for the cancer unit. We are going to buy a new machine called a cancer linear accelerator that won't give off the kind of radiation that the cancer radiation therapy unit produces.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is a new generation of cancer treatments. I met with the Planning Minister yesterday and they will release another K10 million of the K30 million. We will finish the design and I am assured by the Chairman and the CEO that we will open the new cancer unit with the new machine in February next year.

So I can then say that Papua New Guinea now has a capacity to provide super specialist services for our citizens to save money rather than spending money overseas; we will be able to look after them here.

The commitment of the Prime Minister to create a level 7 national referral hospital in Papua New Guinea is now achieved and I am glad to inform the Parliament.

Thank you.

Deport Transnational Criminals

Mr RICHARD MASERE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity. My questions are directed to the Prime Minister and I urge the Ministers for Immigration and Police to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are basically in relation to the point that was raised this week regarding the transnational criminals entering into the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity on behalf of my the people of Ijivitari to thank the Prime Minister for taking a bold stand in addressing the issues of transnational crime in PNG by directing investigation and cancellation of PNG and APEC care for the controversial PNG citizen, Mr Djoko Tjandra.

I also congratulate the Prime Minister for living up to his words when he advised the Commonwealth Heads in the leaders' meeting in London three months back that he will address the transnational crimes in PNG.

Mr Deputy Speaker, all the transnational crime in PNG are not things that are happening out of the blue. Most of these things are happening because the people in authority are aiding and facilitating these criminal activities.

10/04

On a similar issue there is a convicted transnational criminal identified as Mr Kevin Hikay who was arrested and convicted by the National Court for organised crimes in Port Moresby. This was public knowledge and even on record in the PNG case laws. And I am surprised that the chief immigration officer went on media and said that there was no conviction certificate on this foreign criminal. So, he was allowed entry into the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have here with me a record of a case file Summary 35/2007 stating that this person was sentenced to three years hard labour. It is standard practice that in any country in the world, if a foreigner is convicted of a criminal offence in the host country, he/she is imprisoned and deported from the country and blacklisted from any further entry.

Why is PNG becoming a soft country for transnational criminals and have allowed him entry into the country? It is seriously disturbing because our immigration system is unable to detect a transnational criminal who was once convicted and deported. He was granted a visa and had multiple entries in and out of the country, until a citizen raised the alarm on the national security issue. Unfortunately, the citizen who raised the alarm was again arrested by police.

Mr Prime Minister, it is a serious concern, that citizens who are revealing such public corruption are being targeted. I am calling you to sanction any investigation into the conduct of the officers of immigration for allowing the issue of a visa and the re-entry of this convicted criminal.

(1) Can the Prime Minister confirm that these public servants who facilitated the issue of the visa will be disciplined or terminated?

(2) Can the Prime Minister confirm that the person/persons in question will not be allowed into the country again?

Mr PETER O'NEILL –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I also thank the Member for Ijivitari for his questions.

I am not familiar with the details of this particular gentleman that he is referring to, but through what he has already stated, I fully agree with him that people like this should not be allowed to move freely in our country, as if they are entitled to everything that our country offers. This is especially for those who have been convicted by the National Court.

Mr Deputy Speaker, subject to further orders from the Court or any other orders that I may not be aware of, and if the conviction still remains and if this gentleman is still in the country, I will direct the Commissioner of Police to have him re-arrested to serve his sentence.

And after he has served his sentence, I will order that he be deported and not allowed entry into the country. I can confirm also that the public servants who aided this behaviour will be disciplined.

National Intelligence Organisation Issues

Dr ALLAN MARAT –My questions are directed to the Prime Minister. And the questions relate to the dysfunctional state of Papua New Guinea's premier domestic intelligence agency, the National Intelligence Organisation, (PNGNIO). The first question relates to the abuse of process.

(1) Is the Prime Minister aware that since the appointment of the current NIO Acting Director-General on 15 May, 2015, he has administered disciplinary actions on many experienced senior officers without following due processes of the *PSC General Orders*?

11/04

(2) Does the Prime Minister know that this has directly affected NIO's ability to perform effectively its constitutional obligation to inform the Government on accurate intelligence information on a timely basis?

(3) Can the Prime Minister admit that since the NIO has failed to perform its primary duties and responsibilities, the organisation has lacked adequate ability to perform its National Security Duties due to maladministration?

(4) What action will the Prime Minister take to address nepotism, favouritism and the unprecedented level of corruption and rampant abuse of delegated authority within the NIO?

(5) What is the Prime Minister going to do about the Director-General for dishonestly applying two cheques especially for NIO's Special Operations Fund, Cheque No. 10946 for K26 786 and Cheque No. 10951 for K26 788 dating 11 December, 2015?

(6) Does the Prime Minister know that through deliberate deception by the current Acting Director-General about the legitimacy of the NEC appointed Director-General, Joseph Kuripi, his appointment was later revoked based on ill advice?

(7) What action will the Prime Minister take to recover public funds wasted on two vehicles, one burnt to ashes and the other recovered which both resulted from irresponsible conduct of the Director- General?

(8) Is the Prime Minister aware of sexual harassment and fornication of female officers at the NIO and if so what remedial actions has he taken to end these wrought?

(9) Is the rampant abuse of process, misuse of public funds and closure of five relational office of NIO directly impacting on the National Security of Papua New Guinea?

(10) What is the Prime Minister going to do about the issues raised? Is he going to pretend that all is well when the fact is contrary?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank You, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Member for Rabaul for his questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NIO has many challenges and I agree with the Honourable Member about some of the issues that he has raised. I am aware of those disciplined officers or those who have been marginalised or sidelined or sacked from NIO for various allegations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have received complaints from those officers and I have instructed my department to investigate those allegations and I am yet to receive advice on that. I am not aware of the other allegations that the Member has raised about nepotism, misuse of funds, abuse of motor vehicles and sexual harassments so I urge the member to provide that to me and I will certainly respond to that and act on it.

12/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, I agree with the Member on the issue of providing proper intelligence assessments to Government on a timely basis. We are not receiving that because NIO is lacking the capacity and we are negotiating with some of our development partners. In fact, yesterday, the Australian Minister for Home Affairs was in the country and we had

discussions on rebuilding NIO with their assistance. That is to show that we can have the capacity to monitor some of these activities that are so crucial to the security of our nation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are doing that and finally I can assure the Member that the appointments committee, which includes myself, Opposition Leader and other independent members have now agreed on an appointment of a new NIO Director-General and it will be announced shortly.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances be noted.

Reports on District Performance Indicators

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to start on my grievance debate by bringing us to the attention of reporting in this country and measuring our performances either from the province, district and so forth.

I would like to state here that globally we are measured by the Human Development Index as a country. The Human Development Index was derived by an economist from Pakistan in 1990. Since then the UNDP has actually adopted the standard of measuring the performances of each country by the level of life span in health, secondly, the life span in education by our children, and third is the income level received by any one person or a citizen of this country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the question that we can ask is whether we can measure ourselves by that measurement that was derived from an economist from Pakistan that is now adopted by UNDP or we can derive our own HDI based on our own standards so that we can actually keep track of how we are performing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Minister for National Planning is not present to take note. We constantly debate constantly about money, but we fail to actually assess what we have achieved with that money. And it starts from the national, provincial, district and local-level governments and so on, even to the facility centres taking sector by sector, for example, education and health.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to bring to our attention that in future starting from now, ministers when presenting reports, must highlight the indicators of education, health and so forth. And if you are a police minister, you basically report on the manpower that you have

placed in each district. And if you are a public service minister, you basically highlight and indicate in your report to this Parliament, how many serving officers are serving in each district; how many are on payroll and how many are not on payroll, et cetera. This is the kind of information that this Parliament wants to know because it's from this reformation that we can go back and see what we can do with our K10 million that is given to the DSIP.

13/04

We basically put politics ahead of everything else and ignore the fact that we must address the key indicators of education and health and raise the level of income for our people to have money in their pockets.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the Parliament that, when one Minister presents his report or statement, he must tell the Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea the actual statistics of his ministry. The statistics must be for each district and not at the provincial level. We must start concentrating on our districts because as I have always stated, K10 million for each district is a lot of money. If it is given and released on time then we can do a lot more with that money.

However, the challenge for all of us is; how are we going to report on the spending of that money? If we have a plan then we can appease ourselves and report accordingly whether it is education, health or any other area. We must measure from when our children are born to when they become 18 years or young adults. We must have records for all these things in order for us to measure our statistics.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to again appeal to our ministers that when you present your report, please present information on the performance indicators of our districts. We do not need to sit here and listen to a very big comprehensive report that was written by your secretaries for you to read here. Let's present facts and figures so that it also helps you to understand the big picture about where the country stands. You will know which districts are performing better as compared to the ones that are lacking behind. This will then help you to assist all leaders properly and accordingly. You can't expect new or better results if you keep doing the same thing. You need to change because there can't be any improvement if you don't change.

I do not want hear about all your stories and I think we should all appreciate that all Members of Parliament do not want to read huge books of your report. They just want to know about their indicators. For example, if you are the Police Minister, then tell me about how many

police personnel you have allocated for my district. How many have you sent already? And if you have not sent any then why? Through these facts and figures then we can work together to improve the situation.

I do not want to listen to a report that talks about how many mobile squad members went to this place or that place doing whatever they were ordered. I do not want to know about all those things. I want to know about the report that talks about how many policemen are now in my district. What are the problems and where can I contribute to assist in helping the situation? Let's report on something like that.

The information that the Minister for Communication & Information Technology can tell us is how many Digicel and Telikom repeater stations are there in each of our districts. This is the kind of report we should have here in Parliament.

I would like to commend the Minister for Education and the Minister for Health because they give reports based on our current figures in our districts. When we all read about reports, it is normal for one to check on his or her own district rather than the whole picture. If the report talks about the whole country then you lose interest because it does not concern you and your district.

14/04

When you present a report based on each province and district, it assists members because then we can now see what we can do for our individual areas. But then, Mr Deputy Speaker, how can we do that if the reports are coming in late? When you present the reports two years late how can you improve the situation? So, let's be up to date and get our public servants to work hard in their respective ministries as well as us at the provincial level. Let us work hard to bring the reports up front so that we can quickly respond to our issues. Those are my thoughts. We cannot continuously talk about money issues only, I think with K10 million going to each district, a history and record of K45 million going down to each district, we can now sit back and see how we have performed.

But then the question is, what are we measuring? So, if the HEI that the UNDP is now using to measure standards does not work for us in Papua New Guinean, can Planning and those responsible sit down and device another one? The bottom line is we must measure our own performance.

I would like to see ministerial statements that are presented to be based on reports, and highlight the indicators down to the district level because this is the only forum that we sit as

district representatives. The provinces are there but the districts are more important because we need to know the status of our districts and remedy our situations. That is my opinion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to open this with these views and later other Members can talk about other things but I believe that a report is the basis for us to measure our performance so that we can know where we are going as a district, as a province and as a country.

Damage to Government Property

Mr WAKE GOI (Jimi) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to make a few comments about the public amenities that the Government has enacted around the country, in the provinces and the districts. When members of the public, under the influence of alcohol, damage these properties they are free and are never subject to punitive action such as being arrested, sent to trial or get their drivers licences terminated, in the case of reckless driving.

We condone such actions so many public amenities have been marred and this is something that is of concern to me and I want us to review them and ensure there is adequate penalties imposed to deter such behaviour.

Another issues is damage to Government property. An officer can use a vehicle, get involved in an accident causing death and shirk the responsibility for remedies to the ministry, department, province or district. When they crash hire cars or provincial and district vehicles they do not get punished. They think because they are government employees they are above the law.

Even the injured parties also know that the person causing the injury may not have the resources to settle them and so they pass the liability to the district or the province and even the National Government also to recompense while the responsible parties are left scot free. They can even use money or abuse money and are exonerated.

These are some of the things which in my view are not in order but we can fix these issues if individually all of us as ministers and chairman of districts can impose tougher penalties on these people.

Rundown Government Houses

Even now we are talking about building houses for public servants. You can do that but after one month you can see that the insect wires are ripped up and other damages to the property. If you go around Boroko area you can still see some rundown houses, even then they cannot spend any money on renovation. And here we are saying we want to build more houses, but whose responsibility is it?

15/04

Maybe the Housing Minister should allow these public servants to reside in institutional homes for five years only and if they wish to remain they can apply for a loan to pay it off completely. And you can use the money from that to build more houses

Or they can reside in that house for 10 years and then vacate it so that you can make money from these houses. The current loan arrangement with BSP has a very low interest rate of four per cent and more people should be encouraged to obtain these loans. They can use the National Housing Commission houses for a very limited time and then find a new house or they can pay off the house they are residing in. This approach would really help because when you drive around you see the very dilapidated houses belonging to National Housing Corporation still occupied by people.

I come from a missionary family and I have been raised in a well maintained home regardless of what material it has been built from. The area is clean, the walls are painted and the window fly-wire is intact and these things are maintained so we live as humans. Yet some very high covenant houses in the city are in very deteriorating state.

Just recently certain officers from the National Housing Commission convinced me to buy a house. When taken to inspect that house in Boroko it turned out to be the same house that I had tried to buy during my first term in Parliament but the house was in a worse state.

So, if we can provide houses for our people and ask them to maintain and take proper care of it this attitude can be applied in the way we take care of our city as a whole.

You can see what the irresponsible business owners are doing. They don't repaint their stores or maintain it, the drainage is filthy and they don't seal their pathways on the road leading into their business shops or offices regardless of whether they are paying tax or not. They should use their initiative to patch the road and maintain their business area and its surroundings.

Even the newly built highway which the APEC will be travelling through is now stained with betel nut spittle. Maybe we should paint our sealed roads red so that that the betel nut spittle stains will be camouflaged by the paint. It is an attitude problem faced by the country and we must address it. Even the educated men can litter on the road. When driving in the city, if I come upon someone littering, I always ask them to pick it back up. When the right thinking man doesn't do what is right, how do you expect this country to improve? It is that bad.

The drains are meant to guide the course of water instead they have become dumping grounds for people's rubbish. These are some of the sick attitudes that we need to discuss further on.

Yesterday, we discussed about parents careless attitudes to their children. These children are left to lay on roadsides beside rubbish piles while the parents just focus on selling their betel nuts. We must stop these parents. They must stop selling their goods by 5 o'clock. Everyone is supposed to be at home where they can cook and have dinner and family devotions together. These are important things. How can we improve this country if we let these parents to keep neglecting their children?

Provide Housing for Employees

Mr Deputy Speaker, we should have a rule where if a man is employed he should be provided the accommodation to bring his wife and his children to be taken care of. If the woman is residing in the village and the husband is employed in the city, how will they communicate and share the responsibility of taking care of their children? The young man may also be tempted to find another woman and this leads to children being born out of wedlock. These men are not responsible for the children they produce and our welfare office also fails to hold them responsible through salary deductions for their wives to take care of them. Young people are making children without a plan. I also have two grandchildren whom I am take care of and they call me their father and I am grateful I have them. These are some of the problems we have.

Rural Development Office

Going back to my district, we have not used the road for six months. The road conditions are still the same as no work has been done about the bridge.

16/04

In order for us to be accountable for our spending, the Office of Rural Development should check and furnish these reports on a six monthly basis. But so far we have not seen any of such reports.

Yesterday, some of our colleague members from the Highlands region expressed concern that Office of the Rural Development has failed to assess, compile and submit reports.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we must fund this office but if there are no funds available for them to efficiently and effective carry out their roles and responsibilities, then we should do away with this office. Maybe we do not really need them. We can use other means to report back to Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Ombudsman Commission did not submit their report as well. Why? Maybe the Department of Finance and Treasury are not following up and are slow in

reporting. But when it comes to raising cheques, my goodness, they will say they have worked until morning simply because the commission is involved in the end.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have some good and bad points here in the country but we are good leaders and we have taken all these issues into account. We must talk about them and address them accordingly.

More so, I urge the respective department staff to sit in our debates and take note so that the departments also know what issues and concerns are raised on the Floor of Parliament in order for the departments to fast-track the implementation process.

Mr Speaker, some good points were raised yesterday during the debate. I also hope that the department concerned took note of that and will implement those discussion, otherwise we were just wasting our time. Thank you.

Review Election Laws – Disputed Returns

Mr HENRY AMULI (Sohe) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As a first timer, I became a subject of the Court of Disputed Returns. The former Member took me to court for something that I did not do and was not aware of.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I was grateful to go through the court proceedings to clear my name allegedly against 266 votes that prompted my win.

Mr Speaker, my concern now is, the government should relook at the election laws especially on Court of Disputed Returns because I almost lost my seat due to false allegations.

The former Member had seven witnesses who told the court that polling officers bundled 266 votes and added that to my tally. But I presented the truth in court with seven of my witnesses who are Returning Officers.

17/04

I have spoken the truth in Court. There was no additional votes that led to my declaration as the duly elected Member for my electorate. They also told lies in Court and these lies were believed against the truth I told. So we ended up doing the re-count. During the recount there were no votes of the former member in my box. And I was declared again as the Member-elect.

My concern, therefore, is that the government must review the laws on the Court of Disputed Returns. The submission of the former Member was made to have me dismissed and he be declared as the Member- elect, through the Court process. But the Court chose otherwise

to have a re-count. I almost lost my seat through false allegations. As a first time politician, I am bringing this issue forward if the government can review these laws, on disputed returns.

Increase Equity Share for Provinces – Extractive Industries

Mr TOBOI AWI YOTO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity to voice my grievances.

Before I proceed, I wish to thank the Government for giving the people of Western Province 33 per cent equity on Ok Tedi mine. As I speak today, I have received my share of the equity and learning from that, I want to contribute to this debate.

Papua New Guinea is rich in resources but these resources are being stolen in front of us by foreign investors because a lot of our country's laws on resource development are too weak. For the last 40 years, my people of Western Province have suffered. Under the laws, the people whose resources are being mined receive 2.5 per cent equity, and that is how much equity we have been receiving so far.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I hope that within this term of Parliament we will come up with stronger laws especially in the extractive industries sector as this is the sector that brings in a lot of money into our country. During the Governors' meet in Madang last week we were speaking strongly on changing the laws on mining and oil and gas industries. We also want to amend the laws on forestry, fisheries and any other resource development in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the 33 per cent that the Government has given us will increase the internal revenue for my province and contribute towards the development of my province.

If you have any other resource in your province, such arrangements can increase your revenue and you can help contribute to nation building by developing your provinces using those resources.

A precedent has been set in this country where a province has been given 33 per cent equity, free carry. I want to challenge the Minister to make that a law, so that it becomes a regulated benefit, where we do not need to negotiate when there is a resource being developed elsewhere. We should just sign agreements or disagree to them without having to negotiate what is rightfully ours and what is for the developer to keep. And that has not happened in the past when dealing with agreements, especially in the extractive industry sector.

18/04

Our landowners from Hela and Western Province are still fighting for our benefits from the first LNG Project.

We are still fighting because we went to Kokopo, negotiated and wrote an agreement that was not in the best interest of our country.

A very good presentation was made at the Governors' conference, which made me realise how much we have lost; we have lost out big time. All the proceeds were parked overseas and now we are faced with shortage in foreign currency. These things are happening in our country because our laws are not tough enough.

So, I would like to challenge the Minister for Petroleum, who is not present, to strengthen the laws in order to give us the powers to have free carry equity in this country. All the governors have agreed to support those amendments and I know that the 22 governors who attended the forum will support you and the Minister for Mining.

That is my small contribution that I would like to add to this Grievance Debate.

Thank you.

Implementation of Annual Budgets

Mr ALLAN BIRD (East Sepik) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to discuss an issue which I think is a national issue, and it is to do with implementation. I am happy that the Prime Minister and the Treasurer are here listening.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one of the things I noticed is that annually our Budgets are getting bigger and bigger, however, our achievements in terms of standards of service have actually declined. Now, from a broad analysis, the money is not an issue but it is the implantation, and I draw the attention of the House to what happened to us last year.

I feel that our implementation of Budgets in not effective and as a result it doesn't matter how much money we have in the country as a whole, we continue to face the problem of declining effectiveness and declining quality whether it be in health, education, roads, and et cetera. I recollect some of the arguments by some ministers in this House in previous sessions.

My concern is that last year, my Budget was cut by 71 per cent and I think most of the other provinces were faced with the same issue so when you look back at it, the National Department faced a less severe cut and if you look at the Budget in totality, you will notice that the provinces get a little part of the Budget when you take away DSIP and PSIP. When you look at the actual service delivery funds that we receive to give services to our people is cut. In East Sepik's case, it got cut by 71 per cent.

Some other governors that I spoke to are not talking about it because they are in the Government but the fact of the matter is that 90 per cent of our people are living in the provinces, not here in Port Moresby. So, if there was some kind of measurement that the

Honourable Member of Nuku was talking about then you will be measuring quality that is declining, just like the Minister for Health was talking about. The vaccination he mentioned a drop from 80 per cent to 60 per cent and we are facing recurrence of diseases that have been eradicated around the world. Now, this has happened while the Health Department has record Budget.

The health sector Budget is huge but the indicators are saying something else and I can tell you why. In East Sepik, out of K12 million that we were to receive for Health care, which we could have used for the vaccination, we only received K3 million. If this trend continues you will get another K3 million. How do you expect us to provide a gold standard of 80 per cent? You are dreaming.

19/04

Meanwhile all the departments in Port Moresby have massive delegations traveling to Malaysia, India, New Zealand, China, et cetera. Millions of kina only for overseas trips. On top of that you get travel allowances, hotel bills, airfares or even get a body massage in Thailand or wherever. But I get K3 million and you expect me to provide. It is not only me, all you provincial governors, why are you guys not saying anything? Yet, you expect me to achieve a world standard of 80 per cent with a lousy K3 million in functional grants for health. For some of you, K3 million is enough for you to purchase a vehicle and roam the streets of Port Moresby, while you expect us to deliver quality health care

Early this year, we found out that none of our kids could make it to medical school, the university rejected their application. And if you look at the education budget, it is the largest in history. We even boasted about it on this Floor of Parliament. But the results of the students is very poor. Why is that? Well, I am telling you it's an implementation problem. Let me give you an example. In my province in relation to education, every year, we write cheques. When the Budget is presented we allocate K200 000 for each school and after ten continuous years of doing that, our kids don't perform and fail.

And so, starting this year, I started to check to see what they do with these funds, and guess what? The teachers and the principal booked hotel rooms because the principal signed the cheques and withdrew K100 000 in cash.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am starting to clamp down on this issue. I told them that before I allocate another K200 000, I want to know what you did with the last K200 000. I am not your girlfriend. I am here to ensure that the people's money is being spent for a right reason.

And same rules applies to the National Government, you have to do the same. You cannot allow national departments to enjoy the bulk of the funding without asking the questions; who are you serving? Because most of the time the department is serving the minister. If you monitor it carefully, some ministers give special allocation through the Budget for their own district on top of their DSIP. I won't mention their names, we all know who we are. The National Government seriously needs to fix it.

Honourable Prime Minister is sitting here and listening. You need to pull your ministers into line if you want the overall reporting of PNG in terms of our declining standards of living and services and if you want it to improve then you need to pull out the stick, Prime Minister. Pull the stick out and discipline some of them, otherwise by next year we will sit here and debate on this same issue, wasting our time as stated by the Member for Jimi. We cannot waste our time and enjoy, relax and sleep in luxury hotels here in Port Moresby, it's not good enough.

We need to make sure that out there in the cold face there is a difference. So the real question is, who is the organisation delivering the services? Is it the provincial governments who are sitting right next to the people or national agencies who fly in and fly out like a mine site?

Mr Deputy Speaker, how many national departments fly into my province and sleep in hotels, collect allowances, drive around in hire cars and look for ladies on the road. I am sick and tired of this. And then at the end of the day they carry some report. I will give you an example; K10 million for Wewak Town was allocated to Works Department last year and we are now reaching August. Yet Works Department has not started any work on the road in my province, but how many officers fly in and fly out. I bet you that when you get me the print out on that K10 million, you will notice that most of it was used on travel allowances, airfares and hotels. Why can't you give us this lousy K10 million and we fix the road?

20/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, finally we need to clarify whose job it is to draw up policies and come up with the deadlines? Whose job is to monitor and evaluate? Whose job is it to report and audit? As it is, the national departments want to do all of these.

How can you set policies, how will you monitor yourself or evaluate yourself with your own performance? If you come and allow me to implement in the province then you can come and check on it after you have set the policies. But here you are doing everything by yourself and come back here and present these huge reports with a lot of talk but no substance. This is

because you cannot point out which community you are serving with your massive national Budget. Meanwhile you feed us with breadcrumbs to deliver the standards that you are asking for in this Parliament. And you are wondering why those standards are not being delivered.

When we sit for the next budget cycle and, Mr Treasurer, take note, if we want to change, I suggest you look at how you are carving up the Budget and identify who is actually serving the client. Is it the fly-in, fly-out department or is those of us who live there in front of our people?

Bougainville Referendum

Sir PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speake. I would also like to join other leaders in this Grievance Debate.

Firstly, I would like to talk about Bougainville because this is the place where it has contributed a lot to this country. A lot of development here took place because of Bougainville. I am sorry that the people of Bougainville had to suffer because of the Bougainville crisis.

It is important that when we discuss as leaders of this country, we must acknowledge the fact that there is a referendum but Bougainville is part of Papua New Guinea. I believe that this Government has taken a lot of very good steps to intervene with the development there. I think it is important that we try to give back as a good gesture to the people of Bougainville for their contributions to the development of Papua New Guinea. It is right and proper that we give so many things back to them.

We are trying to give them referendum but we must analyse properly to be certain that they are ready for that referendum. I believe that the National Government and the Bougainville Autonomous Government have a duty and responsibility to the people of Bougainville. We must make sure that there must be some standard of development for those people. We must intervene more for the good of the people of Bougainville.

As a Member of Parliament and a leader of this country, I do not want to see any part of this country breaking away. How diverse we may be, we are still a united country.

21/04

Bougainville has set a lot of records in this country in their effort to progress our country. The people there are very innovative and are an asset to our country.

I feel that because of the conflict that we've had and also because we do not have the ability to re-visit the zone and create a lot more impact, we must now as a government and a nation do more.

But, more importantly, the Autonomous Government of Bougainville has absorbed more powers and they have a responsibility to ensure that their people are ready. If many are not educated and have no economic opportunity then it is vain to talk about referendum and independence.

I am of the view that as a country, I know that the referendum is coming closer but we need to talk to the leadership on the ground and try involve the Members of Parliament from the province and make some real interventions. Those are our people, those are Papua New Guineans.

I think we have to have a feeling for our people there. Forget the politics that is going on here. And we must make a real commitment to assist the grassroots people on Bougainville. They have helped us enough, using their resources to develop this country and we must now repay them and try to sort them out.

Later, when they are properly settled, if they feel that they have received adequate services and feel that they should go another way, that's alright. When they are on another level they can decide. But at this juncture I feel that when we are talking about referendum, whose referendum is it when the people are not in one accord.

I haven't been on the island and I am really interested to go and see. You know, Enga Province is still way back. I am interested to see where I am in relation to Bougainville; if they have done well in the past couple of years and if they are ready to go. I think we can look at such things. Otherwise, if we continue to advocate for referendum our grassroots people, Papua New Guineans, will be hurt.

Mr Speaker, I think we have to be a bit more involved. We must, as leaders, get out to the island, all of us and in every way to those people on Bougainville. They are our people, they are our brothers and sister.

APEC Meet

The second issue I want to discuss is APEC. I think we must remind leaders on this Floor and the people of our country that APEC will come. The Government of this country has already decided on it and it is almost here, just four months away. Whether we like it or not, it will happen.

We must all know that APEC will come and go, and we can determine how we have done but let us not judge ourselves.

We must not be prophets of doom. We must be optimistic. Yes, it may cost the nation, but a decision by this Government has been made. So, I want to appeal to all of us as people of

this country; leaders of this country to me more responsible in the next four months going to APEC. We must all agree, we must show our image to the world.

We will never have another opportunity. Who can bring back APEC? These sorts of meetings are difficult to bring to countries.

As for me, previously when I was leader of People's Party I wanted to become the Prime Minister too. But we must now acknowledge what the Prime Minister has achieved. He has been able to convince the biggest leaders and economies to come to our small country. We must give credit where it is due.

22/04

We have already had discussions on the pros and cons of APEC. We are almost reaching the eighth month and the meeting occurs in the eleventh month, and I stand to remind the leaders and the country. This is our country, for once, let us forgo our differences. Only one can become Prime Minister, several can become Ministers but we will all still live in this country. The country remains as our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want to make these two points. We must be proud, where else can we go? Some will save some money and obtain dual citizenship then escape but some of us will remain in this country. We will live with the aftermath of the APEC whether it is good or not but it is our responsibility to do everything positive to show our positive side to the world. As a nation we benefit for now and into the future.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Law and Order Issues

Mr LEKWA GURE (Rigo) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to contribute to Grievance Debate by talking about law and order issues or more particularly the escalating culture of lawlessness in our country.

First of all, we need to recognise that we do have that problem in our country. The solution to any problem is the fact that we recognise it and admit it. This culture of lawlessness in terms of respect for leadership and respect for property. I want to go on record by saying that the burning of the Dash 8 up in Mendi was very sad for this country in general but more particularly for the aviation industry. The aviation industry is such an important industry in this country.

In actual fact, the aviation industry helped to build this industry. I want to go on record to say the burning of that Dash 8 plane was a sad day, and made me and my family very sad.

Many of you experience on your overseas travels to and from Hong Kong or Singapore and as you walk into the terminal and see the flag of Papua New Guinea on the back of the Air Niugini aeroplane, it sometimes brings tears to your eyes. Some have admitted on their return trips that as soon as they saw the PNG flag on that tail of the aircraft they knew they were home.

In my travels through Europe, America, Southeast Asia and the Pacific countries, I still believe that Papua New Guinea is the greatest country on the face of this earth. God blessed us with this great country with great potential. Whether we recognise this fact or not, I can assure the honourable members and this Honourable Parliament that foreigners, as soon as they set foot at the Jacksons Airport, recognise the potential of this country immediately. So we should also recognise that potential as well. For myself, if I may say so, I could have gone and flown airplanes overseas just like my friends flying in the UAE in the Middle East or any other country. My great friend Captain Granger from the UAE tried for years to get me to go and fly for Emirates but I said you go ahead and fly the PNG flag overseas. Some of us we want to let the grass grow around our feet because Papua New Guinea is where we belong.

23/04

After all, your heart is where your treasure is, and our treasure is the great country we call Papua New Guinea.

I guess that is the reason why we are all here in this Honourable House because we recognised that this is a great country and this is the highest way that we can serve this great country and our people.

So, going back to the culture of lawlessness in our country, let us adopt a holistic view when we are talking about this issue and not blame a department or an individual.

Let me talk about some examples. Firstly, the Minister for Forests yesterday talked about decentralisation and other issues as well as at the home front where parents must be responsible for the discipline of their children.

Then we come to the education system where the curriculum must be appropriate for our development needs. We must pay particular attention to the curriculum, and I understand from the Minister for Education that religious education will be part of the curriculum study next year. So, that brings us to the churches. The churches themselves must also take some responsibility in terms of instilling good ethics in our people and ourselves as well. Then we come to the law enforcement agencies like the police and the court system where we talk about the criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system.

As you can see, it is not just one department or sector that is responsible for the breakdown in law and order issues. I just quoted some examples of people who should be responsible for instilling good values in our people so that they behave as responsible citizens.

Once these law and order issues become manifested, then we are saying these people should be responsible: the churches, the Education Department and the law enforcement agencies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are other issues which will go towards solving our law and order issue, for instance, the job market. As leaders whether at the district, DDA, the provincial or at the national level, when we are talking about the expenditure of public funds, we must ask the questions; what jobs are we creating or how many jobs are we to create with this investment? And again at the job market, are we providing the right employment opportunities for our young people coming through the education system? Are we giving the right education which is appropriate for our development needs? Are we giving them the right training for the industrial needs in our country?

What are the jobs reserved for Papua New Guineans because many jobs are being taken by foreigners when they come in here. If our people are employed it will go a long way in solving the law and orders issues.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at the end of the day, all of that boils down to leadership. Some people have said, and let me quote, 'everything rises and falls with leaders'. If leadership is good, everything will be good. If leadership is poor or bad everything will not be so good. When we are talking about leadership, we mean leadership at the national, provincial, district, LLG and ward or village level.

24/04

As leaders, we have to be mindful of our conduct and whether it be in public or private, it must be above reproach. We must set the standards that the people must aspire to. And through our conduct and speeches, we should be promoting the rule of law. I certainly try whenever I go to my district and I always make it a point to the people that we must promote the rule of law, because it is important. If a society is peaceful, then people can go about their business in an industrious way and prosper.

So the rule of law is important and we as leaders must also promote that value as well. We must respect ourselves and our laws. Let me finish by saying with a little comparison. Here in the country we are still talking about land disputes. Whenever we talk about development

land dispute is always an issue. Whilst a country like Singapore is talking about rocket science, we are sort of getting left behind.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to get ourselves away from the land bound issues and start thinking big and try to move this country forward. Some learned Asian by the name of Mahbubani wrote a book titled, "Can Asians Think?" Let us ask ourselves that question. Can Papua New Guineans think? Can we think seriously through these issues and find the right solutions? Those solutions will go a long way in addressing a lot of our law and order issues including the lawlessness that we experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DE LA SALLÉ STUDENTS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER –Honourable Members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of students and teachers from De La Salle Secondary High School. I welcome you all to the Parliament.

Take Note of Debates

Mr KOBBY BOMAREO (Tewai-Siassi) –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak. I want to echo some of the sentiments shared by the Member for Jimi.

I have heard some very good debates by other Members as well, which are beneficial to the country. The Member for Jimi correctly stated that not a lot of people keep records of what we say in Parliament, only *Hansard* keeps a record of what transpires in the Chamber and that is all. There is no one who keeps a record to implement most of the work that we do here. I do not think that we will create another gallery and bring in the necessary people to listen to the debates and carry out what is being asked to be implemented.

Secretaries and ministers appointed to the ministries or government departments must be available to listen to what we discuss and take it back to their departments and have them implemented.

Every Friday during Grievance Debate, there are no ministers in the Chamber. I am pleased to say that only the Prime Minister is available right to the end of each session. Ministers must be present to hear our grievances. How will they implement the policies of some issues that we raise here in Parliament? Their absence portrays a very bad image on the attitude of leadership in the country.

25/04

Maybe the Prime Minister should replace some of those ministers who don't stay through a whole Sitting with some of us who are always attending.

Lae-Nadzab Road

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Works Minister has just walked out but I wish to thank him on his comments on the Lae-Nadzab road and I would like to thank the government of the day and also the previous governments for recognising Lae City as the second city of Papua New Guinea. They have addressed all the pot holes of Lae City and now it is like a cement city with no more potholes city.

So, I would like to say thank you to the Government for recognising the importance of that four-lane road leading up to Nadzab. It has lifted the face of Lae City.

But the roadworks has stopped at the section leading to Bulolo and the road that comes up from there is not in good condition. If you go there it will take you an hour to run from Yalu Bridge and 9-Mile.

I am happy that Air Niugini services four flights from Port Moresby to Lae but it was cheaper before. Now for a 45 minutes flight, we are paying K700 to Lae.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a lot of expatriates are traveling to Lae for business, as well as Papua New Guineans and the international community.

The APEC Ministerial Delegation travelled to Lae and when we heard that they were coming, we quickly graded that road for them to travel on. Once they left, we left that road to deteriorate. I am happy that the Minister just mentioned that the Government has allocated money to repair this road so I would like to say thank you for this decision.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I sit down, I heard the Governor of Northern Province raise a very good question on people just coming into the country with no proper documents and we are deporting them. Again, the Member for Ijivitari has raised another issue of a foreigner which the Mr Prime Minister gave a good response that people who are coming into the country to conduct illegal business must be deported.

Most of these people coming into the country who are doing all these are Asians. They are everywhere in Papua New Guinea and they are conducting illegal businesses. They go and have disputes with landowners over land to conduct their businesses, which Papua New Guineans can do themselves. These Asians are also bringing in counterfeit items which do not last. How does ICCC allow them to import such items into the country?

I remember the Member for Nawae raised a question on a certain type of lights that sometimes you will see on top of vehicles. These lights are illegal and should not be used as they could cause accidents.

You will see that when these people come in and set up their stores, they employ our children but they do not pay them according to the Minimum Wages Board. They are receiving K70 a fortnight. These Asians are also involved in other illegal activities so we must deport them from the country.

Can the Minister investigate these type of businesses and check to see if they are underpaying employees and bringing in their own people through all sorts of Visas?

I have asked the Public Accounts Secretary to ask the Minister and the Immigration Officers on how they issue visas to these people to come into the country in the first place?

26/04

If we are serious in deporting these important men then why are we not serious about those people who come into this country illegally and do business. They come here and take over from businesses which our very citizens can do.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I won't say much but take this time to share the sympathy expressed by the Member for Rigo in relation to our aeroplane. I join other members who share the same sentiments. Leaders must appeal to all the people of this country to respect all the state properties that promote the identity of our country. We must condemn all these bad behaviours not to happen again and we must try to solve these issue once and for all for us to see and respect the services which the Government is providing for us.

There must be a reason for causing all these distractions but we must respect what the Government is providing by taking care of all these national assets.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Incomplete Projects

Mr MICHAEL BAGIA (Chimbu) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My debate is in relation to the incomplete projects in my province. Many projects in the provinces have been awarded but they are just sitting idle there and haven't grown roots, but instead grew their wings and flew away. We see big billboards but next minute it has being removed. There are even big piles of gravel for road construction but no sign of workers. Even funds have been released but the actual work has not been carried out. The money is probably being spent here in Waigani.

The funds released for the water supply project has been lost. Fixing of sewerage system is in complete, and the billboard for the police station is standing idle there without actual work done. Huge sums of funds for providing services to the people of Chimbu Provinces have being misplaced.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when development funds are being released from donor agencies and PIP and DSIP to develop the provinces, what process is followed to release them to the provinces? We must have people in charge to answer such questions.

These funds must be released straight to each province and we mandated leaders must take record of it and dispatch to each projects. In that way we will monitor it carefully to make sure that the contractors carry out their work accordingly. Some contractors do their work properly but some do half the work and they are gone the next day.

Therefore, my appeal is that when funds are released from the Department of Finance, it must go through due process before it reaches the final stages where actual work is carried out. In that way the people's money in millions of kina will be put in good use so that they can see and benefit from the projects carried out.

27/04

Those of you in responsible positions must make sure that money goes to the provinces and not contractors. We will make sure that contractors are on the ground and carry out their responsibilities as stipulated under their contracts. There have been many instances in many provinces where contractors do not carry out their contracts. A lot of money has gone to no good use and have been unaccounted for. We are stealing from our people and this is an ongoing problem that we have in this country.

What comes from the National Government must go to the provincial governments where we will make sure that it gets to the people. We will do proper monitoring and make sure that projects are actually carried out. Some contractors pretend to be on the ground and when they get the money, they are nowhere to be seen.

For example, there are many areas in Chimbu where they start off work but never complete it or they never do any work at all. Sometimes they do work that is not to the value of the contract. I had an instance where K6 million for my water supply project got lost in Port Moresby and I was accused of getting that money but I did not get a single toea. My people are the ones missing out on getting safe and proper water supply.

I want to urge that whatever processes that we follow to get our projects done must be done in a very accountable way. All projects must be done according to the contracts signed and that those projects must be delivered according to the standards that are required by law. When this happens then people are going to be proud of their government. We must work towards sorting out these problems for the good of our people.

The other issue that I want to debate on is the issue of the burning of the Air Niugini plane. This plane was brought in by my late leader, Sir Iambaki Okuk. You may have your grudges but I too have mine.

Through you, the leaders of Southern Highlands, I want your people to apologise to my people of Chimbu for the burning of that plane. This plane was brought in by our late leader and it serviced the people of Chimbu. That yellow Bird of Paradise on the plane is called Iambaki. And it so happens that this is the name of our late leader who is also the icon of our people of Chimbu. My people remember the late leader through that bird designed on that plane. It is our Melanesian way of doing things therefore it will be appropriate if the people of Southern Highlands say sorry to my people of Chimbu.

Motion – That the grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..