

FOURTH DAY

Friday 31 August 2018

DRAFT HANSARD

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FOURTH DAY

Friday 31 August 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 Markham, **Honourable Koni Iguan**, to say Prayers:

‘Honourable Members let’s all bow our heads before the Lord God our creator and let’s all say the Lord’s Prayer together.’

QUESTIONS

Mr KERENGA KUA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to reserve my right until the Minister is in the Chamber. I didn’t realise that he is not present.

PNG – ‘A Fragile State’

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Treasurer but he seems to be missing in action so may I direct my questions to the Prime Minister. My questions are in relation to the economic status of Papua New Guinea and its standing in the international community.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are international criteria for whether a country is termed diplomatically as being in a fragile situation. Just a nicer term for the early and more normal reference for when a country is known as a ‘fragile State’.

According to publicly available data from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, after years of improvement during the years of the National Alliance Government, PNG has fallen to once again becoming listed as a ‘fragile State’.

And we do not share good company in this rating. The only other country considered to be low to middle income and ‘fragile State’ are Zimbabwe, suffering from the legacy of the autocracy of the Mugabe years and Timor Leste recovering from the civil conflict from its separation from Indonesia.

PNG is behind the rankings of low income countries such as Chad, the Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Liberia and Mozambique. Indeed, there are only 12 countries in the world with a rating that is lower than PNG such as Yemen, Afghanistan and South Sudan. So this is not good company.

My questions are:

(1) Mr Prime Minister, in the year of hosting APEC, why is PNG now the only APEC ‘fragile State’ and how do you explain this embarrassing position for our country?

02/04

(2) Will you concede that when looking at the World Bank’s assessment of why PNG has gone backward and become fragile, most of these are in the areas of the responsibility of the Treasurer; so once again, why is it that independent outside commentators consider that PNG is going backwards economically while we seem to continue to paint a rosy picture of the economy?

When dismissing other commentators such as the Treasurer did on Moody’s Standards & Poor’s when they downgraded our international credit rating; the worst downgrade in our country’s history.

(3) Can you specifically explain why the World Bank’s ratings have lowered PNG’s economic management from 4, an arbitrary figure used by the report in 2012, to 2.8 in 2017?

Is it a key reason of PNG becoming a fragile State?

(4) Can you explain why the World Bank has lowered PNG’s macro-economic management from 4.5 in 2013 to only 2.5 in 2017?

Is it a key reason of PNG becoming a fragile State?

(5) Can you explain why the World Bank has lowered PNG’s debt policy from 4.5 in 2013 to 3.5 in 2017?

Is it a key reason of PNG becoming a fragile State?

And finally, Mr Prime Minister,

(6) Can we give some more respect to outside commentators that it is clear that PNG is suffering under the policies of this government?

When will you concede that your government's poor economic management has caused over 100 000 formal sector jobs and declined an average income of K1000 per person?

(7) Will you now apologise to the people of Papua New Guinea for the failing economic policies of this government which have driven Papua New Guinea to the embarrassing position of being officially considered a fragile State?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and I thank the Shadow Treasurer for his questions.

Before say a few words about the questions that he has raised, let me say that he's got a tendency of trying to talk down the economy and calling the numbers that have already been approved by the Parliament, like the Budget, which he called the 'fake budget'. These are things that certainly go to undermine the confidence of the development of the economy of our country.

Mr Allan Bird – Point of Order! I just wanted to point out on the MYEFO Report yesterday, it is the Government's own official information which says that our GDP has declined from double digit figures to today at one per cent. These are your own numbers. It's just a correction.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – The Member for Kavieng and the Governor of East Sepik have a tendency of getting excited too quickly.

Let me finish the answers so that you will have a full appreciation of what I am trying to tell you, so that you can understand in your own mind about how the economy is travelling.

03/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me say this. When he makes reference to the National Alliance Government, there is no doubt that there was economic growth during that period and we have acknowledged that.

What can also been acknowledged is, what have they done with that growth? Eight years of continuous growth of the economy, surplus budgets, record trust accounts over K8 billion, programs that where established like the RESI Program, the Agriculture NADP, community colleges –

Members Interjecting

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Kavieng, you have raised your question and the Prime Minister is trying to answer.

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, the Prime Minister is not trying to answer my question. The Prime Minister is commenting on the National Alliance history.

Mr Deputy Speaker, may I ask you to remind the Prime Minister to answer the very specific questions that require specific answers.

Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, resume your seat.

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not know why, when the Member for Kavieng has got the audacity to compare our country to places like Zimbabwe, Sudan and all the other places and he does not care about the answer that I am trying to give to him.

Mr Acting Speaker, why can’t he just shut up and sit down so that I can answer his questions.

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey Interjecting

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, resume your seat, please!

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey Interjecting

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you. Let me say that I do not think the World Bank is lending money to Zimbabwe and all these countries that he has mentioned but they are certainly doing business with us. ADB is certainly doing business with us. If we are a fragile country why would they be so confident in lending money to Papua New Guinea?

So, he must be listening to some fake news or from *Facebook* where he is getting his questions all wound up.

Let me say that he made reference to National Alliance Government so it is important that I make a very clear comparison from where we have been and where we are going and what we have done.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when the National Alliance was in Government the Oil Prices were travelling at about \$120 plus per barrel. When this government took Office, I am sure that the former Shadow Treasurer will understand the collapse of the pricing from \$120 down to \$27 per barrel. We received close to K200 billion in taxes from the Minerals Resource Sector. In fact, it has collapsed down to less than K200 million in certain number of years.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, you can see where we have been travelling and you can see that challenges that we have to face. Including the challenge of having an extended eight months of drought, the earthquakes we have experienced and of course the end of the construction phase of the LNG Project.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is also fair to say that it was the National Alliance Government that delivered the LNG Project but they also delivered us these many promises that we will have these windfall of money coming as soon as we get into the LNG export, which did not happen. This cargo cult type of mentality that there is big sums of money at the end of the rainbow so we all should be looking forward to it and our streets will be sealed in gold, well, it has not happened. So this is why we are cleaning up all the mess and lies that our people have lived for those number of years.

04/04

When we took office, the trust accounts were almost zero balance.

Mr Kerenga Kua – K500 million!

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Zero balance from K8 billion!

The K500 million that the Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl is referring came from the donors that were in the trust funds.

Mr Kerenga Kua – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, there was K500 million surplus in the accounts and he spent it on the supplementary budget but we do not know where most of that money went to. Maybe it went into their pockets so they are trying to cover it up.

Government Members interjecting

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Order!

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, if we want to talk about records, I will be very happy to argue about the number of hospitals they have built, roads and schools they have built. Today I can stand here and say there was zero infrastructure in the country. That is the record that the Shadow Treasurer should be proud of.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when you talk about growth, yes, during the National Alliance reign, I can say that the growth was average and above 8 per cent per annum and, in fact, this growth rate continued up until 2015. In 2016 and 2017 when the commodity prices collapsed, the growth came down 2.5 per cent per annum and also when the construction phase of the LNG Project finished, it also had an effect on the growth.

It was expected that with the earthquakes and the droughts, the growth would go into negative territory. But we are very happy that the MYEFO Report is saying that the growth is coming back to 1 per cent and I am certainly confident that it will reach about 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent towards the end of the year.

So we will see the outcome of those number at the end of the year and I can say to the Shadow Treasurer that we are not in a fragile state. You can see the changes happening in the country unless you are blind, especially the infrastructure that we are building around the country. I can give an example from New Ireland Province where now the Member can drive from Namatanai to see his colleague in Kavieng on a sealed road and we have delivered that.

Laughter-in-the-Chamber

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, there was an existing road since 1896 linking Namatanai and Kavieng. In fact, in 1900s, Kavieng was gazetted as a second town in this country.

Government Members Interjecting

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Well in 1896, the good Member for Kavieng should thank Buluminski for building that road from him, but I can't say the same for himself. I do not know what he has built for himself in Kavieng yet but –

Laughter-in-the-Chamber

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, while I was Governor, I single-handedly funded Buluminski Highway from Panamana to Ward 19 in the Namatanai Electorate. It was the first time the Namatanai Electorate was sealed. It was not funded by this Government.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I am certain that the Grievance Debate is coming after this question time and the good Member for Kavieng can speak his mind.

But let me say that we are not a fragile State, we a country that is gaining in confidence, the economy is growing, we have broadening the base of the economy so that it can withstand some of this shocks that we continue to feel if commodity prices and global challenges meet us from time to time. I can certainly say that the confidence that is shown to us by the World Bank, IMF and all the other donor agencies continue to be improving.

05/04

They know the challenges that we have faced in the past. I know that if the Shadow Treasurer continues to show some confidence in the economy, I am certain that so will some of the independent observers that the Shadow Treasurer is talking about. These socialist-thinking economists that sit down in an academic atmosphere and give us a picture of how our country should be should come to PNG and see for themselves. Nobody has banned them from coming here and they are most welcome to come here. They must come here to see for

themselves what is happening in the country. They must witness the confidence and the growth and the developments that are taking place in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I can assure the Member for Kavieng that this is just the beginning. He will see changes in the coming future. He will see the very strong development agenda that this government has got for the country which he will see over the next 5 to 10 years. You can be rest assured that I will deliver to the nation.

Electoral Population and Boundaries

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – I wish to direct my question to the Minister for Inter- Government Relations.

(1) Are we serious about making the Electoral Boundaries Commission to work and to fulfil the promise of giving additional districts to big provinces?

For us in West New Britain, Talasea holds a population of about 300 000 people and Kandrian has about 100 thousand people. Rabaul has only about 40 000 people and Abau has about 50 000 but they are both districts. We in Bialla LLG have about 60 000 people therefore are we serious about bringing those additional electorates? This is not only for West New Britain but other districts like Gazelle, Ijivitari, Kairuku-Hiri and others who are also highly populated.

(2) In the absence of giving those additional electorates, can the Government consider giving some special support grants to those very populated districts?

It is very unfair when you are giving the same K10 million to a population of 50 thousand people compared to a population of 300 000 people.

(3) When can we be given some financial autonomy?

Mr KEVIN ISIFU – I thank the Governor of West New Britain for his questions.

Firstly, with regard to boundaries, this is the responsibility of the Electoral Boundaries Commission and the Constitutional Law Reform. They are still working on these things but I must say that this is not directly under my responsibilities so I cannot give you an accurate answer.

However, I can assure you that they are doing a fine job. They are putting together laws to make sure that work with electoral boundaries must go ahead. I understand that many areas need new electorates due to the issues of service delivery to our population.

06/04

I want to assure you that the people handling this will make sure that before the next election we will try to create new electoral boundaries. The Government has also noticed that the work for service delivery has not been good so far.

The Government has introduced the reform of decentralisation and the first three provinces we will trial this on are East New Britain, New Ireland and Enga. The Government has recognised that their performance is above expectation. The reform is for the whole country where functions will be decentralised from Waigani to the provincial governments.

To answer your question, we are looking at performance of provinces and see which province has come to that second stage so that we delegate the power to that province. Otherwise, I want to assure you that the Government has known that the country's economy lays inside the districts and the provinces so we must make sure that we enable our governments with necessary power so that they can help the National Government so that can grow the economy and at the same time bring service delivery into our districts.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Fix Unitech Road Lights

Mr JOHN ROSSO - Mr Deputy Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Works Minister. Firstly, I would like to say thank you for the main road on the National Highway, which is at its second stage. The road stretches from 9-mile to the Yalu Bridge. We have waited for a long time and now the work is done I thank the Prime Minister and the Works Minister.

I am also grateful for the Unitech to Tent city road where the work has already started. My question is relation to the lights on the road from 1-mile to 9-mile. I've got a very beautiful road but none of the lights are working. The lights have been off for about one year now.

Can the Works Minister tell me whose responsibility it is so that the lights can be fixed?

It's currently been heavily vandalised and we might lose an important infrastructure, thank you very much.

Mr MICHEAL NALI – Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you Member for Lae for the question. Before I answer the question, I want to inform the Parliament that the issue on the road from 9-mile to Yalu bridge and up to Nadzab, is one that is always raised by leaders from Morobe. And I am happy to inform the Parliament that the Department of Works have engaged the contractors already and the road has started from 9 -mile up to Yalu Bridge and later to Nadzab. And also, most of the Lae city roads have already been done and upgraded but this section from university down to Bumayon, we have the contractors working on that road.

07/04

We are also aware of the lights. The contractor has spoken with officers from PNG Power, however, the issue was that PNG Power officers failed to show up. I thought these lights were fixed a long time ago but now that the Member has raised this issue, I will direct the officers from the department to follow up. I think we will have the lights sorted out on the street.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

PM's Commitment -Daru Town Road

Mr SEKIE AGISA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of South Fly.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister and the Works Minister can take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Daru town roads were sealed in 1996 and 1997, when the founding Member of ruling PNC Party, late Dero Wamaro, was the Governor. Over the past years, the town roads deteriorated badly, reflecting a bad image to the town and district as a whole. Mind you, people can walk in the middle of the road while vehicles drive by on the side, that is how bad it is.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 2012, the Prime Minister, while campaigning for the late Aide Ganase, a member of the PNC Party, made a commitment of K10 million for Daru town roads. In 2016, at the mourning place of late Ganase, the Prime Minister reassured us that he would honour his commitment.

Will the Prime Minister honour the commitment he has made?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the Member for South Fly for his question.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the challenge for Daru Town road is quite enormous.

Yes, K10 million is earmarked for that project and I can guarantee you that the Government can facilitate it.

However, the problem is that the K10 million is not going to fix all the road problems in Daru town. That is why we have been trying to work with the funds that are available with the Department of Mining, which is earmarked for all the various districts in the Western Province so that we can counterpart in funding arrangements. This is so that we can rebuild the entire Daru township roads.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I can assure the Member that I am aware that the designs have been completed for resealing the Daru town roads. And not only that, I have extended the Works scope for water and sewerage for Daru town because I know that this is one of the very few towns in Papua New Guinea that the bucket system is still existing. That is why I am very keen on getting this project out of the way.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have had challenges around the management of the funds. Those reports are now with me, and the audits have come back to my department. I will clear them next week. Once I am satisfied that there's good level of accountability on the projects carried out in the past, I will uplift the ban that I have put on that particular fund so that we can have members of those three districts access those funds and then we can work on programs like Daru town roads.

For the benefit of the members of Western Province, let me also say this; the funds have been misused and the early advice that I am getting is that there has been some level of misuse that has taken place. I will refer that report in its totality to the fraud squad and we will start investigating each particular contract that has been awarded to those individual companies and they will be held accountable for all the projects that have not been implemented despite being paid put.

08/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are not talking about hundreds of thousands of kina here, we are talking about millions of kina that have been misused, funds rightfully belonging to the people of Western Province.

Again, I also urge the Member and his colleagues from Western Province to talk to their colleague from the Moresby North-West Electorate who thinks that the PNG Sustainable Fund is his personal fund.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that fund belongs to the people of Western Province. The sooner you have access to that, the better it will be. Our government is not asking for that fund to be transferred to the National Government, we are asking for it to be transferred to Western Province.

And I think it is only fair that he and his friends from BHP should take some responsibility for the damages that they have done so that you can develop the township that you are now talking about as well as the province.

Bougainville Referendum

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – I direct my question to the honourable Prime Minister who is also the Minister Responsible for Bougainville.

Before I ask the question, I would like to take this time to thank the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet for coming over to Bougainville for the last JSV meeting in Arawa.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is about 10 months left before this country will witness a historic moment, in that, Bougainville will go into a referendum vote, the first of its kind in the history of this country.

My question, Mr Deputy Speaker, is, during the last JVS meeting it was agreed that a special JSB meeting will be held at the end of that month. But, Mr Deputy Speaker, that JSB meeting did not eventuate and we have waited a long time to hear from the Government what transpired in that JSB meeting.

Can the Prime Minister, as the Minister Responsible for Bougainville Affair, give us a clear indication so that we in Bougainville may know what has happened?

I acknowledge that APEC is of extreme importance to the country and I know that the country is focused on APEC, but please, Mr Prime Minister, do not forget our issue on Bougainville.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, let me thank the Deputy Opposition Leader for his question.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is an important issue for Papua New Guinea. We don't take this issue lightly and I am sure that we will resolve the issues and we will conduct the referendum in an orderly manner within the time frame that we have set aside because we are giving it the priority that it deserves.

In terms of the special JSB meeting that we were supposed to be having in Port Moresby, this has been delayed because the two sides, our side and the ABG side, have not agreed to the question that is going to be put to the referendum,

The questions have been formulated and they are being discussed. They have had several meetings over the past few months trying to agree to a question that is going to be put to the people.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the constitutional requirements in our country and the relevant provisions have got to be taken into account. We have received legal advice both from our State lawyers and lawyers who are leading experts in Constitutional Law. They have advised that the *Constitution* does not have a provision that can allow us to give our country away or allow one part of our country to become independent.

There is no such provision in the *Constitution* and that directly contradicts the Peace Agreement that we have signed in respect to Bougainville. So officials from both the PNG Government and the ABG Government are trying to work through those issues.

I have received a summary of their discussions and advice and based on that, they have narrowed it down to four questions.

09/04

However, I have gone back to the officials stating that I want a single question to the people of Bougainville. I do not want the people to have so many questions that they are confused on what they want to vote on.

As soon as the question is agreed to by the officials then I will call the special JSB meeting at which the leaders can agree to the question so that we can put it to the people during the referendum time that we have set. The second issue just for the benefit of the House and the Deputy Opposition Leader is that we have also finalised and given the contract arrangements for the engagement of Bertie Ahern, the former Prime Minister of Ireland, because of his experience in conflicts in Europe, and particularly Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Ukraine and the others.

He is a leading former leader in Europe and who has gone into conflict areas to resolve conflicts quite amicably to the satisfaction of all parties; and we have got him to lead the Referendum Committee. And on our part we have already nominated former Chief Secretary, Robert Igara, as one of our commissioners on that Referendum Committee and Dr Thomas Webster who is a leading academic with NRI to lead the discussions with the National Government. We are making progress and it has slowed down because of the questions but I can assure the good Deputy Opposition leader that we are giving this the priority.

It will not be affected by APEC or any other issue for that matter taking place in the country. The JSB meeting will go ahead during the APEC period or even before as soon as the questions are ready.

National Housing Corporation

Mr JONNY ALONK – My questions are directed to the Minister for Housing.

We all know that people have to stay in decent places to live and work. Whether we are leaders or anyone from all walks of life, we need a decent place to carry out our daily duties.

The National Housing Corporation is a good establishment that we have in the country. But I am gravely concerned because so many kinds of groups are going around in our cities, especially in Port Moresby trying to sell properties or doing shady deals around the place to claim properties.

(1) Can you tell the Parliament and the people of this country whether you have delegated officers to do such activities as consultants or valuers for properties or a team to carry out recovery work?

(2) Have you given them the direction to go out and sell NHC properties or not?

(3) If you do not have such a team or if it does exist, let us know so that we are able to seek advice and assistance from them.

10/04

Mr JOHN KAUPA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I also thank the Member for Middle-Ramu for his questions.

Before I became the Minister, I found out that there was a lot of illegal sales that was happening so when I went into office I stopped all the sales of properties throughout the country in order to investigate these matters.

As the Member for Middle-Fly mentioned, there some people going around with the Housing Corporation Stamp and carrying fake titles doing illegal sales of Housing Corporation properties and I think that most of these people are in the top management of the National Corporation Housing, maybe at Tokarara or other branches in the country.

So when I was appointed the Minister for Housing, I immediately issued a direction that there will be no more sale of properties throughout the country and all the sales that occurred in the provinces must be reported to the National Housing Corporation Headquarter at Tokarara where we keep the records, validate, verify and do evaluations for all the properties. After we do our in-house duties there are two other valuation teams who value the same property so that we rectify it and make sure that we are selling it at the actual value of the property.

But, as the Member for Middle-Fly said, we are not exercising that yet because these houses are colonial houses built by the Australian Government. Many of these houses you see in the provinces and even in the districts are built with fibro material and most of them are given away through the Give-away Scheme.

Some have failed to obtain titles because they had little outstanding amounts to pay. These people will go through Lands Department where the title will be issued but in the midst of that there are some people who hijack the process.

So, Member for Middle-Fly, this is an important matter you have raised and I have issued the notice already but I will issue another notice regarding the same matter by next week so it will reach all our provinces and districts. I also have plans for the districts because there are many Housing Corporation houses out there

After the inventory stage we will establish the actual records of how many houses we have in all the districts so that we can offload some to all the DDAs to take ownership and maintain them because you are right there. So there is a plan in place and this also applies to the governors.

These are good questions so by next week, I will send the direction that all sales of properties must come through the headquarters here at Tokarara so it can be controlled here.

By next week, I should be in Daru and while the Governor of Daru is here, we will open in Daru, the Western Province Housing Corporation after Independence and also the

other provinces we will be opening new offices and bring the integrity of Housing Corporation back and the integrity of the colonial times.

11/04

Many governments have come and gone but they have not built any new houses. They have tried to develop housing schemes but there was no funding. And even when one project is initiated, it's not completed because of the availability of funds.

Therefore, I want the patience and cooperation of all the members of Parliament and because I understand the importance of owning a house. When you have a house then you got a complete family unit. The house provides that shelter for your family which your wives and children can live in happily and at the same time, the house provides that warmth and assurance and you look forward to going back to the house to eat and sleep after a day's works.

That's why we must at least provide a house which is affordable and convenient. It doesn't matter whether it's one or three-bedroom house, as long as it is connected with electricity, water and is conducive enough for our children to do their school work.

Mr Deputy Speaker, next week I will issue directives to all the NHC officers working in all the provinces to track down people with fake house titles so that they can be dealt with by the law, because it's a criminal act. At the same time, people know of such activities must report the matter to the task force team at NHC office at Tokarara so that actions will be taken.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRADE EIGHT STUDENTS FROM BOREGAINA
PRIMARY SCHOOL, RIGO DISTRICT –
STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members I have to inform the Parliament that the Grade 8 students from Boregaina Primary School, Rigo District in Central Province are present in the Public Gallery this morning. On behalf of the Parliament, I extend to them a very warm welcome to the National Parliament.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the grievances be noted.

Allow Debate after Ministerial Presentations

Mr KERENGA KUA (Sinasin-Yonggamugl) – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I have a short grievance debate but firstly, I have grievances to the Chair.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from what I have observed and for the benefit of this Parliament for the years to come, when a minister presents a ministerial statement on this Floor of Parliament, it is more better that the Chair must give opportunity to the Opposition Members to see whether we have some thoughts to say in relation to the statement presented or not. If not, we can defer the statement to a later date.

Many a times when we want to debate on the statement presented time never permits. At the end of the day, the government of the day has the power to run the country and we are simply trying to help the government in whatever way and if they happen to go off the track then we help them to be on track again. So for the good of our country we must not defer debates every time when statements are presented on this Floor of Parliament. Each day we are faced with new workloads and we simply forget about yesterday's work.

APEC Paper Lacks Information

With that, I want to debate in relation to the paper presented by the Minister for Lands and Physical Planning the other day. The Minister presented a statement which I thought was incomplete in a substantial way. I would have thought that in this kind of presentation using premium parliamentary time, five minutes of that time ought to be dedicated to talking about the preparatory stuff. But a bigger part of that time should be allocated to talking about the substance behind the purpose for APEC, and that was blaringly omitted in this statement. So it is substantially incomplete so we don't have a clear picture of what we are trying to achieve.

The paper here is dedicated to the preparatory stuff and its relevant but in a minor way. So I would encourage the Minister to go back and consult his people and do a preparation of a paper that should be presented to the Floor of this Parliament on what sort of

things are we trying to achieve by this process which involves the expenditure of millions of kina which belongs to this country.

12/04

The people ought to know so that we can support this program in a meaningful way but that is missing up to now and this Parliament needs to endorse that statement to show that we are doing this but now we understand the underlying reasons behind that thing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when you boil it down, what is APEC all about? It is up to the Minister to explain to us what it is about but when I look at it in its core essence, it's really a gathering of businessmen. It is a meeting of traders. It is going to be a meeting of buyers and sellers and that is what it is all about. The leadership surrounding it is to facilitate for that. In the process of preparing and spending hundreds of millions of kina in that project, what are you preparing on behalf of Papua New Guinea to sell? What trade package are you preparing to sell on behalf of this country to the buyers who are going to be coming? At the same time, what are you doing to talk to the other side about the things that they are going to be offering to sell? There will be sellers and buyers coming and we need to focus on both sides.

For instance, in agriculture, what are we going to be offering in terms of land mobilisation, land security and development? Also in terms of quarantine issues, tax and tariffs. In education, what sort of education opportunities are we going to create on behalf of this country? What are we going to be expecting from the countries that are going to be coming? In terms of the trade tariffs that exists between countries which is a very important tool that people use to regulate trade between countries, what sort of trade tariffs are we going to have in place generally and specifically on an industry by industry basis.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that needs to be thought out, spelt out, mapped out and brought to this Parliament and explained to us so we can all buy into the direction in which they are trying to go. At the end of the day, it is a meeting of buyers and sellers.

We have got to prepare our products for sale to the international community in the best possible light to bring the best possible outcomes back to this country. We have a lot of resources in fisheries, forestry, oil and gas and minerals. Each industry is unique in itself and there has got to be a platform developed to sell each of those industries to the potential buyers that will be coming. We have got to have a clear platform. We have one in the existing regulatory framework but that needs to be summarised. If there is a need for improvement then it must be considered, written out, plotted out and brought to this Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in essence, I am encouraging the Minister to give it more thought. Instead of giving us the preparatory stuff, give us the real purpose and meaning behind everything.

He tagged the Opposition as being clueless and playing politics but I would like to remind the Minister that he is on the Government payroll to play politics. When he plays it, we in the Opposition will respond to the game plan. None of us are here to waste time. We are all paid to do exactly what we are doing. These are not meaningless exercise but we are helping each other. He needs to do a little bit more homework. He can't expect us to just swallow everything that he does. He can't force feed us and I don't think a lot in the Government understand with clarity what he aims to achieve with the expenditure of all this money. He needs to spell it out and we talk about it. When we cooperate and present a united front then he will achieve more. All of us will achieve more for our country.

13/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, the purpose of what I am doing is for him to identify the objectives. The case here is that you have to fix it now. When the meeting is over we will relate back to these objectives, the KPIs that he will be fixing ahead of time. And the ministers, the departments and the executive arms of government will take their cue from those KPIs that he's already fixed ahead of time.

The follow-up actions will also operate of that platform and they will follow it through and in the ensuing year we can extract benefits out of what we are doing.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, let me conclude by saying we need some more information. The Minister ought to be invited, his preparation work is alright but we need to know how he is preparing to sell this country up there for maximum benefits for the kina and toea that we are spending now.

Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

Benefits of Hosting APEC Meet

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave –Minister for Commerce and Industry) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I also want to contribute to this Grievance Debate.

The Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl has raised some of the good points. But I also want to say that the hosting of APEC is not a thing that is made in isolation. APEC is part of a bigger story. When the government of Peter O'Neill was formed, they had this very big

vision to put Papua New Guinea way beyond the next fifty years and one of it is through the hosting of APEC. APEC is all about creating opportunities. Part of the preparations that we have is to make sure that we maximise the opportunities and how we can derive its benefits. That's the reason why we have been conducting series of meeting up to the Leaders' Summit in November.

The first *Alotau Accord* and second *Alotau Accord* number one pillar is to grow the economy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the past, we were very, very limited. The opportunities available today in PNG were never available in the past. Most enablers like energy, land, water, the country had problems with this when the investors came but now it's possible. We are now producing energy. Look at the Papuan LNG and look at Yonki. Yonki has increased it from 87 megawatts to 200 megawatts. If Frieda comes on stream 400 megawatt will be produced. Likewise for Wafi-Golpu.

So in essence, Mr Deputy Speaker, we will have an abundance of energy and at the same time we are progressively and aggressively addressing this water issue in the country and now we can look for ways to bring this water in so that it can match the United Nation standards.

What am trying to say it that the things that looked difficult to us such as creating industries and raising the country's economy is the thing of the past no. The Government under the leader of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill has purposely paved the way so that we will have objectives or a goal-post to work towards to achieve the final outcome.

I note some of the comments made by Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl, but I have to commend the Minister because out of those meetings, there have been opportunities for Papua New Guinea business men and women to establish dialogue with other business men and women from other parts of the world.

14/04

This is what we would want to see. There will be opportunities available. By next week, if I am allowed to, I am going to present a statement on how we can open up the country so that we can maximise the outcome of APEC like the creations of special purposes economic vehicle, the Free-Trade Zones, or creation of agro-industries. These are not issues for discussion only, there will be pathways to that so that when people come here for APEC, we want to make sure that we secure the best deals for PNG.

In addition, we have the benefit for the first time, thanks to APEC, Port Moresby has received a major facelift. As Papua New Guineans, we must be proud because APEC has brought it through. What I am trying to emphasise here is, hosting a prominent event like APEC is not done in isolation. It is part of the bigger picture, the over-all drive by the O'Neill government to basically change the landscape. We have to think outside the box, we cannot focus on the extractive industry, instead we must increase our economic base. We will go into manufacturing, agriculture, fishing, so the only way to make this possible in the country is to attract investors during the APEC meeting. This is much better than sending PNG delegates all over the world seeking investors. We are hosting this event so that they can come and we can have dialogue with them so that they must see the opportunities we have in this country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we must not down-talk APEC because there are many benefits of hosting it. As you can see from the Medium Term Strategy and from the way the Government has framed the Budget, it is basically to look at life after APEC and how we will capture the opportunities and convert it into real growth.

This is my contribution. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Police Budget Allocation

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to debate on the Police Force. The Police Force is a national function and it is fully budgeted and funded by the National Government. If you travel to rural districts today, you will see that many rural districts have less than four regular policemen. There is not one single female police officer in our rural districts so when our women folk have problems, they have to face the male police officers. Now, how do you expect women who have private problems to seek assistance from the male police officers? Some policemen take advantage of women with problems.

15/04

While Port Moresby has all the police officers and mobile squad officers and those that escort Asian businessmen, our districts are really suffering from lack of active policemen and women.

How can the village court officials do their jobs if there is no police support? It will not happen. When the village court officials attend to drug addicts they get attacked by them because there is no police presence in the districts.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from my calculations or my own findings, my provincial police commander receives a Budget of K4000 a month for his operations. If the Police Minister is here he will confirm that and I want that to be tabled in Parliament so that it can enlighten us because I believe the Police Department receives one of the highest budgets every year. But nothing from that trickles down to the provinces and the districts.

The Provincial Police Commander has to beg around to feed those that are arrested by police and put in the holding cells, to prepare the court files and to do all these things with just K4000 a month.

If you don't believe me, your assignment now is to go and ask your provincial police commanders, especially those of you from provinces outside of Port Moresby.

The question is, where is all the money going to?

Mr Deputy Speaker, we must not pretend that everything is alright in this country.

The Police Department needs all the support they can get from us. All the money that is allocated is probably used in only one area. Or maybe we should create disturbances so that the mobile squads can go and spend more money n allowances, hire cars and hotel accommodation.

Can we go straight to the simple services that our people need? There are no police officers in many of the 89 districts in this country to respond to the criminal activities in our districts and provinces.

I have funded the Provincial Police Commander's travel to go in and inspect my district. He was accompanied by policemen from Vanimo to Nuku. I think for you it is okay, but as for me, that's what's really happening, so the Police Minister must by next week or at the earliest convenience table reports telling us how much money from the Police Budget is allocated to each province on a monthly basis. And if possible, also report on how much is given down to the districts from the provinces.

We want to know, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the simple reason that it is a national function. What more can we say? Do you want me to speak in my dialect? Maybe then you would listen. It is simple, this is a national function. Telefomin, for example, when I was the Provincial Administrator, there was only one lone policeman. This is the district that the Defence Minister is representing here.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have this big problem now so we need to reorganise. But still every time the Police Minister answers questions he emphasises 'after APEC'. After APEC! After APEC! Bougainville, after APEC! Everything is after APEC, but Mr Deputy Speaker,

criminals are not going to wait for you or wait for 'after APEC.' In our districts right now we must fully equip our police officers.

Engage More Female Police Officers

Mr Deputy Speaker, we need more female police officers in all the districts to attend to our female population in the districts because right now we do not have any.

I have already said, for the Police Budget in West Sepik, the Police Department in Konedobu releases only K4000 every month. What can we do with this money? It is only enough to buy ink and toner and gets used up in Vanimo, while down at the district, how we survive is our business.

16/04

We only get some support from East Sepik. We even seek assistance from any police officer on the road who is escorting an Asian businessman. Otherwise it is a disorganised department and we should admit it and do something about it immediately. We are also hearing that there will be a police reform. I want to see it and also contribute so that it will be recorded in the *Hansard* that these are some of the input that we want to make.

Mr Acting Speaker, when there is a restructure, I want to know what my manpower ceiling is for Nuku as well as the district police budget ceiling. And I want the OIC and the heads of those divisions physically in the district working. It is not my job to make them stay in the district and do their jobs, I can only assist in police housing but other than that they have to be in the district and seen to be performing. DSIP is funding for some of its work but what I am referring to now is the operational funds.

If you make an arrest in Nuku, you will take the people to Aitape, police will transport those arrested and cater for them along the way to Vanimo to wait for their cases there. Who looks after them in Vanimo is yet another big issue on its own. It does not cost K4 000 a month to take prisoners from Nuku, right through to Vanimo. If I have the wrong figure then maybe the Minister responsible could clarify that and furnish the budget break-up that reflects how much is allocated for each provincial police commander and how much is given for operational costs each month. We want to know all these right down to the district level.

That will be more realistic for us because when we know it, we can also chip in as a district or a province. So right now we do not even know so if you are taking businessmen and others to try and help them there is nothing to show for them to help the police out there.

What do you expect from them anyway? I am talking about simple basic service for our people. Remote parts of the country and the districts are facing the same problems because there are no police presence, or at least there is something that is not allowing their presence to be felt and seen. It is about time we should address the issue of police seriously. The Minister should furnish to this Parliament a report on the Budget break-up and the release to each provincial police commanders and also down to the district.

Mr WAKE GOI (Jimi) – I want to say thank you and give credit where it is due. We have all received K5 million. We must not give excuse about no money and divert it to other uses and confuse each other. The people of Jimi are happy, the airfares in all airstrips in Jimi are low. This year even half a million to two million is a lot of money. Most of my people are happy accessing the airstrip and they are able to travel under K100. I thank the Government because even when it is facing financial hardships, it is trying to help. It is like a father trying to cater for all its children. The future looks bright and for the first time my people of Jimi have observed or seen for themselves the changes that are taking place because the Government is really assisting. In times like this we have to stand together. So, I would like to thank the Government for giving the money and we made use of it.

17/04

Health Services

My grievance is on health services. It is a priority area which is constantly funded. Many midwives receive the necessary training and health educationist are always here when there is an outbreak such as Polio or other diseases. I was a health officer as the secretary of an NGO, and I made sure that clinics were done routinely, a priority on the number one list. I always ask the OIC if the clinics were ran during the month, I would be at Goroka but I make sure that Tausi, Togau, Lae and Six-mile were running their Clinics, and ensured other clinics under me were run promptly.

But, now I do not see that happening. I think that we should stop the allowances and have it paid in their salaries so that they can work because people want to work only when there is allowance. We must seriously look at this and change the laws.

There is something else that I wanted to mention before I take my seat.

Police Incident

I was going to Court for K13 million. I was issued a bench warrant because I didn't attend a Court due to me preparing my affidavits with my lawyer in Goroka when two police vehicles, 06 and 05, were sent to arrest me at 11.30 p.m for not attending.

My lawyer had advised me to go in on Monday and clear myself so I was happy to go in but during the trip from Hagen to Kabiufa to Goroka I was arrested and taken to Hagen Police Station. I slept there for two nights and on Monday I ended up in Court. That was the first incident.

In the second incident, the same two police cars were really rough with me during the 2017 Elections.

In the third incident, the former district administrator used the vehicle and left it with his people. I asked him more than 20 times to bring the car in and he didn't respond. I was monitoring and we went in and got it from his people with four guns on Sunday night before this Tuesday, the first day of the Parliament Meeting.

I was monitoring the movement of the vehicle so I paid villagers K5000 to stop the vehicle along the bridge that I built. So, on Monday morning I drove down to that bridge and picked up the vehicle from there. I drove up to Dona in North-Wahgi village and the same two Police vehicles 06 and 05 drove to the bridge and realising the vehicle was not there, followed me to where I was and terrorised the women and children there.

When I asked what was happening, they said it was a State vehicle and it is supposed to be with the Police. So I responded, who am I and who is the State? I have five vehicles in my yard in Goroka which I brought in from Obura-Wonenara and Kainantu and this vehicle must go there. I am a Member so it is okay for the vehicle to be with me.

I told them that when I requested for backup from the police when the landslide occurred I had to wait for three months for the police to come. But with this State vehicle, I have four officers here who are trying to sell it. MS Hagen can respond within three hours so I asked if they wanted to arrest me but they did not.

So, if there is going to be a fourth incident then I will take matters to Court but if anything happens to my life then you will all have to deal with it.

18/04

My people in the community will know what has happened, when it comes to that.

When I lost my seat I had to attend court, go through counting period until I was as elected as Member of this Parliament and all sort of things are happening to me.

The Minister for Police, if you are present in the Chamber, then make sure that you take note of these things. We all are leaders and when we want to do things in a right way it is very hard. And if I don't carry out my duties in a proper manner then this country will be affected badly. I am an elected leader and if I take action on such bad things happening then I can assure you that 90 percent of Jiwaka is under my care and control and even when I contest for regional seat I can win and it is 100 percent confirmed. I am telling you all and that's the kind of respect and treatment they give to me.

As for Jimi, if this objection to competency was not granted then I would have won my seat because eight polling places didn't cast their votes. This particular law which warrants for objection to competency is not helping an elected member at all. My 38 affidavits confirmed that there was no casting of votes which my opponent has nothing to argue on that. But it was only objections to competency that made the difference which my lawyer wasn't prepared to defend me on that so I lost my seat.

Therefore, I want the Police Minister to take note because I don't want police personnel coming after me and these two police cars must not chase me around. And that's in one of my grievances today.

But otherwise I thank the Government for the DSIP. I am quite happy with it and don't forget the politics of this country and the people would always want to compete. After all let us fear and trust God, we are all earthly beings and even Jesus was tempted on this earth. And so no one is perfect so let's support the Government and move forward, thank you.

District Hospitals

Mr LINO TOM (Wabag) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I want to share my short grievance this morning but it's very important in the light of the statement made by the Treasurer in relation to K30 million being released to all the district hospitals.

I happen to visit the Heath Department and found out that many of these district hospitals listed to receive the funds, some of them have been closed and don't have enough manpower or even check outpatient patients only.

With that throughout the world one main factor that drives resource allocations is audits such as the number of patients checked, operations carried out and the number of staff stationed. And for district hospitals the requirement for level 4 hospitals must have at least one specialised medical officer and a number of medical officers.

And from the listed district hospitals to get funding for this year, I have noticed that most of these district hospitals are not qualified to receive these funds.

We are all aware that our country is running short of money and our resources are limited and during such a time we should allocate resources according to needy areas. And we shouldn't just build big hospitals in areas where there is no need or if they are close to provincial hospitals.

For instances, in Wabag our district hospital is situated at Sopas and the number of operations we do is equivalent to some provincial hospitals in the country. The number of patients has increased every time. We do a yearly audit and I have a copy of it today with me.

Unfortunately, I have realised that Sopas was not included in this list and I was not happy because this very hospital is providing teaching services to newly established nursing colleges. Right now one of the pressing issues in the country is shortage of medical staff and this college is providing a lot of good things such as enrolling students as far as Buka, Milne Bay and all over the country and when the colleges increase the number of enrolments then the need for accommodation is very pressing. Right now we are faced with two to three staff accommodated in one house. With this very pressing issue we are faced with I sent a submission to the Health Department to seriously consider the accommodation issues.

19/04

Unfortunately, on the list that is out for funding this year, I realise that a lot of redundant facilities. I see that there is a lot of prejudice and bias when it comes to choosing health facilities in the country to get funding. We can play politics in only certain areas but in the basic and essential services like health and education, we should not. I think audits and statistics should drive the resource allocations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Health Minister should take note of this if he is around. I realise that health staff within the department are playing too much nepotism. They are allocating a lot of resources to areas where they are from.

For example, if you look at the ADB rolled out community out-post projects, you will find that in one particular area, within three kilometres, they built two community out-post. It

cost K5 million for one out-post but there are other areas like Maramuni which is thousands of miles away and people have not have had those services for more than 40 years. We have not put up basic government services in such areas as yet.

The Government is doing a lot of good things and we are proud of things happening in our country but when it comes to essential services then can we let the facts and figures drive the allocation of resources. I saw in this list a hospital that was closed and so much money was spent to rebuild and reopen that particular hospital but for some reason its name appears again on this list. Being a former health worker, I asked the health staff from that area and they said the admission rate is two patients a week and yet we put resources in such areas.

When the country is short with money and we are struggling, the scarce resources must be distributed according to the statistics and audits. It is a requirement for the Health Department and medical doctors to do audits every month on the number of patients that we treat. I am pretty sure the health reports are coming to the Health Department and in the future if we are to bring up our very poor health indicators then we must start allocating resources according to the needs based on facts and figures.

As it is, the K50 million that the Government has allocated to the District Hospital Rehabilitation Programme is a very good initiative. I think more money should be put to the districts because a lot of patients coming from the health fraternity have difficulty traveling into the main centres for health care.

We should start putting up facilities in areas where there is a big population and the remoteness of the area. If we do that then I believe it will contribute to improving our poor health statistics.

I would like to ask the Government when we put up the list, we must always let the audits and statistics drive the allocation of our limited resources. I think there are a group of health workers who are sitting in the department and being impartial, prejudiced, and allocating resources to areas where they come from. We must look into this and tell this people to do the right things. They must distribute fairly and equally because it is an important service that our people need.

Our resources must be distributed according to statistics and audit for the good and for the benefit of all Papua New Guineans. Thank you for all me to express my grievances.

20/04

Misreporting on Social and Print Media

Mr JOHN SIMON (Maprik) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to join in the Grievance Debate. I see that every time we express our views, we continue to down talk the many good things that are happening in this country. And a lot of times it come from the people who sit down and press keyboards and computers; the *Facebook* warriors.

A lot of our citizens, when we are reporting matters, including our journalists do not report accurately and that is when we portray a wrong image of our country to the world.

Two weeks ago, I did a test flight to Hayfield and Hayfield is an airstrip, not an airport. We only have 22 airports, and that is an issue I agree with but Hayfield is an airstrip and I am trying to upgrade it to an airport status.

Our journalists and those on social media are not reporting facts, therefore misinformation such as this is affecting our country.

Facts are not reported on social media. They don't understand enough but they are reporting as if they know everything and this is destroying this country. We have to control these things.

I am not saying social media is not good but the way we are reporting is not good. We are not reporting accurate things. And when we do that we continue to tarnish the reputation of our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, many things have been said by people and they happen. One question we should ask ourselves is, how much have we as individual citizen done for our country? As a Papua New Guinean, this is a lovely country but how much have you done? Even those ones who are keyboard warriors, what have you done for your villages? What have you done for your own community or family? The only thing you are doing is roaming the streets of Port Moresby, Lae or wherever and continuously posting on *Facebook*. Is that good enough? Is that supporting this country? Is that promoting this country? That's not good enough.

What have you done for your own family, your village, your community or your country? You've done nothing and you should keep quiet.

Now these are the things that are destroying this country and it is totally not good. Both sides of this House should talk about how to control the use of *Facebook* and other social sites. How should we control Facebook? I am not saying we ban it but I am saying that

it is absolutely no good. There are a lot of things said on *Facebook* which are incorrect and on many occasions, even the people who are commenting on are not giving out accurate information. The same goes for journalists on print media, their reporting is not accurate. Also the standard of English is used is not acceptable. Obviously English is not our first language but we must use dictionaries to use the right vocabulary because the context of what is supposed to be written may change with the use of wrong words and a negative image of our country may be portrayed.

For example in Tokpisin, when you write ‘ol kilim man nogut tru,’ people will think the man was killed. Instead, a better way to say it is, ‘ol paitim man nogut tru’. This translates to, ‘they belted or beat up the man very badly.’

We are destroying this country ourselves. We stand here and scream and complain about the government. We say this and that and are destroying this country ourselves.

The citizens of this country, and there are eight million people in this country, each and every one of us must ask this question, what have we contributed to this country?

We can talk about law and order. We can complain to the Government, we can complain to both sides of the House but when you look at law and order, those people who are making trouble, they are not serial troublemakers. In fact, some of them are very good citizens. It is our working class citizens that are discarding betel nut spittle from their flashy looking cars. So our main problem is our attitudes. We really need to correct our attitude in this country.

The way we continue to criticise like this is bad. This is our country. Papua New Guinea is where we belong. I don’t have a citizenship in another country. I only have one citizenship and that is from this country and I love this country. But we have to be careful with the way we continue to criticise and talk down the country because we are tarnishing the reputation of this country.

Moving on, I appreciate what the Government is doing through the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Treasury and the Finance Minister. Yes, we can criticise them in terms of managing the cash flow of this country.

21/04

I was a businessman before I became a politician, and when the situation is tough, I put in strict measures to control the cash flow so that priority areas are given precedence and

you manage the cash flow to survive until the end of the year. You make sure the priority areas are looked at in this time and this is what the Government is doing at the moment

I congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Treasury for the good job he is doing. As I said, we should learn to give credit where it is due. In addition to what the Member of Jimi has said, yes, all members have been receiving K4 million and not K5 million. There might be doubt among the Opposition Members that they are only receiving K4 million instead of K5 million like the Members in Government. It is coming, you will get it. The Government is being good, they are giving to everybody. I also want to thank the Prime Minister for the Hospital in East Sepik. If the Governor is yet to thank you, then I thank you.

Small-Medium Enterprises

I want to speak on SMEs and on the Government to set up incubation centre. I want these incubation centres set up for people to manufacture goods and to sell them.

When we speak of SMEs, we talk about buying and selling. Buying and selling is not even promoting SMEs and micro SMEs. We must talk about manufacturing and selling. There are many things we can create in our country yet we don't make them. We should look at that and when we do so, we will empower many of our people.

Teach Agri-Business in Schools

Looking at our country 20 years from now, we will lose out on a lot of things, especially in the agricultural sector. Our garden food will be scarce. Even the block holders will cease operating the small agricultural export. The basic reason is, our children are not interested in agriculture. Give a child a bush knife and the child will be confused on how to prune a coffee or cocoa tree. The school children are being driven away from basic things like agriculture and that is one of the reasons or problems we are having in this country. Twenty years from now, the children who are now 10 years old, will not know how to plant, harvest food and sell it. And when that happens, we will have problems in our food supply. If we don't continue to promote agriculture and try to identify where the problems are we will have problems 20 years from now.

I want our education system to include a curriculum in our education system. Our core subjects are now English, Maths, Science and Social Science. We must move or replace social science with a subject on agri-business. This is because a lot of our children are carried

away. We need to bring that into our education system right now. Once we do that we will change the scope of our country. The subject agri-business must be taught in primary schools and high school in our country. If we don't do this, it will become a big problem 20 years from now. We must promote agri-business. I want the Education Department to introduce this as a common core subject in our curriculum.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

22/04

Words of Gratitude

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU (South Bougainville) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I stand here not to be a critic but to thank the Government.

I think we on this side of the House are also obligated to say thank you to the Government because we are a part of the Parliament and we are also a part of the National Government. But because of the democratic system of government we are called the Opposition.

I wish to extend a word of thanks to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister, thank you for bringing your team to the last JSB meeting in Arawa. You came with your Cabinet Ministers and I want to place on record that the people of Bougainville appreciated your attendance at the meeting where you stayed with the people. It was the first time for some of the ministers to come to and see firsthand what happened to us during the Bougainville Crisis.

Many of the ministers who came understood the problems and now have an appreciation of what are talking about when we stand in Parliament to express some of our grievances.

I say thank you for this trip in which about 11 members of your Cabinet came and participated in this meeting, slept there and appreciated some interaction with the people of Bougainville at that time. They probably got some good insights and educated themselves on the issues that we have been vocal about.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on top of that, I wish to thank other ministers who, through their offices and at their own initiatives, had invited me to accompany them on some of their commitments that our government and country has entered into. One such is the Minister for Arts, Culture and Tourism, Honourable Emil Tammur, Member for Kokopo, who invited me to accompany him and some other ministers to go and attend the Melanesian Festival of Arts which was held in Honiara. I say thank you to Minister Tammur.

I also wish to thank the Minister for Inter-Government Relations, Honourable Kevin Isifu, for inviting me in my capacity as the Shadow Minister for Inter-Government Relations to accompany him and be a part of the recent Governors' Council meeting in Madang. I go on record as thanking you Minister for giving me this opportunity to come and be a part of the team at that conference. I learnt many things and I know that cooperation such as this will continue to assist us to stand together to progress our country to move forward in avoiding situations such as we have today. And to find good results from our walk together.

I also wish to thank the Minister for Civil Aviation who, when we were in Honiara had the courtesy to invite me to witness the signing of some MOU with the Civil Aviation Ministry of the Solomon Islands Government. This is because our Civil Aviation officers are training some Civil Aviation personnel from the Solomon Islands in their fields of expertise.

Also, I wish to thank the Minister for Works, Honourable Michael Nali. I say thank you to you because when we went to that JSB Meeting he made a point. Even though it was raining and the weather wasn't good he insisted that we travel the road from Aropa to Toimanapu Plantation but because it got dark the traveling was risky we didn't go all the way to South Bougainville. I say thanks because you had the heart to come with me on that road where you saw, felt and experienced the hardship so that you can assist me in your capacity as Minister to make sure that our travels along that road become better.

23/04

I want to thank the Minister for Trade and Industry, Honourable Wera Mori, who made two trips to my electorate to interact with my people. Mr Minister, the next time you are in my electorate, I must be available to welcome you as a State Minister. The absence of the Member to welcome you is rather embarrassing. So on your next trip please do let me know.

I want to also thank the Minister for Finance, Honourable James Marape, who will lead a trip from his department to travel to Buin in South Bougainville to conduct the 16th National Finance Conference. I thank the Minister and his team that will be visiting for the conference. I am happy that you chose Buin and we are ready to play host and looking forward to your company. It was agreed during the last meeting in Hela, that Buin was selected to host the next meeting.

Of course, I would like to also thank the Attorney General and the Justice Minister for the kind of work they are doing in assisting us with policy making. There are a lot of

ministerial statements and I am happy with the last one presented recently in relation to the Office of the Public Curator. I am sure the people are also happy that a Minister is interested in their welfare and is able to guide the people as to how they can be able to assist themselves. Thank you for your proactiveness in the current ministry and also in your former role as the Minister for Civil Aviation.

While it may look as though I am looking down on other ministers but that is not the case. I am grateful for those that I have mentioned to have assisted my electorate in one way or other. Most of you are capable and are experienced people in your own way. I also want to thank my team on the Opposition side.

I have a very good team, a team that can work together to share ideas and I believe one of the important thing is about inclusiveness. I believe that in whatever we do we need one another as a team. A hand on its own cannot get anything done. We need another hand to work properly together.

I thank the Government and the Opposition and I hope we all continue to work together to make sure that whatever we do is for the benefit of our people. Most times we do not totally agree on certain things but as leaders we must sit and discuss to resolve any disagreements the Melanesian way.

With that, I wish to say thank you all and hope you all have a good weekend and hope to see you next week.

24/04

Parliamentary Procedures

Mr LEKWA GURE (Rigo) –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to this Grievance Debate. Before I raise the issues that I want to talk about, I want to say that I am going to talk about the issues with the greatest respect to all the honourable members on this Floor of Parliament. Each of them are leaders in their right, mandated by their people to represent them and sit in this House of the Parliament, particularly those multiple-term members and senior ministers of the Government including our Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and all the other senior ministers. So I will raise the issues to the greatest respect to all our honourable members.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my debate is about our collective performance as a Parliament. In view of what's been reported in the papers today, I think all of us remember that some time

ago our Speaker again told us to be on time attending Parliament and our Deputy Speaker also cautioned all of us to turn up for Parliament Sitting on time.

So my grievance debate is in view of what was reported in the papers today, and during my grievance debate I'll be quoting examples of what I have observed in the New Zealand Parliament. I have just returned from the New Zealand Parliament for a 4-day attachment observing their Question Time and the performance of their committee system. So, basically, my debate is about our performances as a Parliament, our procedures and our community system.

Firstly, it goes without the saying, what is the point of ringing of those bells if we completely ignore it and turn up at our own time. There is a reasons for it.

My first example; in the New Zealand Parliament they have the Parliament, a building that houses the House of Representatives debate in the Chamber and adjacent to that is what they call the Beehive where the Executive Government is housed. And adjacent to that is called the Bowen House where the other members of parliament are housed.

On the ringing of the bells, no other staff members are allowed in those lifts except the members of Parliament because they need to get to the Parliament to start on time.

On that day, we were allowed to observe the Question Time at 2 p.m. in the afternoon, when I noticed that the clock was ticking down 10 seconds, 9 seconds, in that time, every Member of the Parliament including the Prime Minister were in the Chamber, taking their seats in a business-like manner. Exactly at 2 p.m, the Speaker walked in and acknowledged that they had a quorum and said the prayers, and Question Time started right on time.

Mr Deputy Speaker and the honourable members, leadership is also about keeping time because keeping time is actually is respectful; respecting the Chair and respecting this institution. The Parliament is the highest decision-making institution in this country, so starting time is really important.

One of the other related issues is the question time itself. We have questions with or without notice. But what I observed in New Zealand is that questions were actually written down at 11 o'clock in the morning before Question Time at 2 p.m. The person asking the questions poses the primary questions and can ask supplementary questions after the Speaker has committed himself to the primary questions.

The point here is, if we are asking questions without notice and the Minister is not really up to speed with that, are we trying to display our greater knowledge of the ministry, or is it the quality of the answer we are looking for? In my mind, quality of the answer is more

important than trying to display our greater knowledge or simply saying, I take questions in writing to respond to Parliament at a later time. So that is other issue.

25/04

The Deputy Speaker has made several announcements on the presence of special visitors in the Public Gallery throughout the week and this morning, not talking about the general public as important as they are, but if we have special visitors and the Speaker announces their presence then we members should respond in some way or to applaud to acknowledge their presence.

Some of these issues that I am talking about should be included as procedures in our *Standing Orders*. And that brings me to the *Standing Orders* itself which I have a copy. It states that it was revised on 27 March, 2002, that's 16 years. So our *Standing Orders* should be revised to reflect our current thinking and practices as well. For instance, in New Zealand, the *Standing Orders* are revised every term of Parliament, so their last revised one was done in November, 2017 for their current term of Parliament. In our case the *Standing Orders* just mentions about the parliamentary procedures but in the case of the New Zealand it covers the committee system and that brings me to the next issue which is the committee system itself. As we all know committee system should complement the Parliament itself or the procedures and how it assists the Parliament such as scrutiny of legislation and the executive government and the agencies investigating important issues and reviewing parliamentary procedures and that's what the committee system is all about.

The committee system is very important because that's where the real work is done. The committee system can be part of the legislative process. For example, if we have a very important bill regarding the *Constitution* and the important bills that requires three reading stages, perhaps the bill can be read the first time in Parliament and then referred to the appropriate committee to revise or call for submission from the public so on and so forth.

Once the necessary corrections are done then it is brought back to Parliament for the second reading. And if it needs further changes the bill is brought back to Parliament for third reading and if it is passed by absolute majority then it is signed by the Governor General indicating that it is being approved by Parliament. This process can take up to six months. In other words the committee system is so important and it can contribute effectively to the legislative process of this Parliament. Therefore, the committee system should be properly resourced in terms of budget and staffing. The New Zealand Parliament committee system

has 55 staff working for 12 select committees. But in the case of our Parliament, we have 17 permanent parliamentary committees and the select committees and staffing of about 7 to 8. So we need to properly resource our committee system with the budget and the staff levels.

Lastly is that we should have dedicated committee meeting rooms because at the moment there is limited rooms to cater for all meetings. When some of us call for our committee meetings it clashes with the others because there is only three conference rooms in B Wing and at times we clash with other committee meetings or ministerial meetings.

The New Zealand Parliament have 12 select committees and they have 12 dedicated committee meeting rooms. One particular interest room was the Pacific Room and the Maori Affairs Room, which was the most beautiful of all the lot.

These committee rooms where properly resourced with microphones, speakers, video systems and even some of the more important ones had video conferencing facilities. If we want our committee systems to work effectively and efficiently to improve the work of the Parliament then we need to resource the committee system well. If we strengthen the committee system then they can do all the background work by helping the work of the Parliament and then we will not need a bicameral system but we can strengthen the unicameral system and make it a really effective Parliament, thank you.

26/04

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – I would like to commend the Honourable Member for Rigo for a wonderful presentation. I think the Government is definitely taking note of what you just said. It would be good to implement some of the suggestions that you made.

We will always be criticised on social media or the main stream media. I think there are options available for those who are hurt or upset or insulted. For civil recourse, you can take this to the courts. There are laws being put into place so that they can at least to some degree manage what is being said out there so that it is not outrageously prejudice or insulting in such a way that it may be in breach of certain laws.

I think that if we move down the part of curbing social media then we will indeed attract the hostility of our people who will say we are attacking democracy in the freedom of speech and so forth. I think all my colleagues in the Government ranks should take a leaf out of our Prime Minister's book in that he has grown a very thick skin. There are many criticisms that are made against him but he does not respond. He focuses on what he needs to do and he does just that. I am starting to learn a few things from that. It is a good lesson.

Government Department Audits

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Let us focus on what we have to do and get out there and do it. This comes with the territory and we are leaders and so we will always be criticised. I am also criticised regularly as well.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments in relation to the presentation by the Member for Wabag in regards to audits and how important they are. Audits are very important and I want to add to what he has already mentioned. What must also follow in regards to audits is the recommendations that come from those audits. Audits highlight the gaps that exists in government departments, in how we act in administrations so that we can improve decision making.

The Auditor General's reports are always being tabled here often two or three years late and the people responsible are already gone and you can't deal with them. But the problems that they have highlighted are there and so be acted upon.

It is our responsibility especially of the Government to look at those recommendations and put in place the control measures that have been highlighted as missing or breached therefore need to be tightened.

What I wanted to mention is for ministers to look at your departments and its management. The problems that we are facing is because of poor management. I have managed a government department and I can tell you that if you manage your department well then you will not have problems. If you ensure that there are standards and internal enforcement mechanisms and have an effort to ensure that the laws are followed. You must make sure that the laws that your department is responsible for are enforced explicitly.

Many a times we come here and hear Ministers saying they will issue a warning but you must take pecuniary action. For public servants, their laws are in the *Public Services Management Act* and the *General Orders*. To be precise it is General Order 15. Many public servants can be taken to task. If a public servant commits a breach he is warned in the first instance and a second time if he does it again. There are certain pecuniary actions you can take and for a third time offender he can be dismissed. I hear a lot of times that it is difficult to dismiss a public servant but it is not. If you do your job then you can sack any public servant who aren't performing especially those who are on contracts. It is stipulated in their contract terms and conditions.

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What we lack here in this country is a lack of will to get out there and do what is often deemed to be the dirty job or hard task, to be seen as the 'bad person'. But these are things that need to be done.

If we want to run a country, we need to make unpleasant and unpopular decisions but if they are the right decisions then we should not be worried about making those decisions.

If someone is not performing they ought to be warned. If they are still not performing and if they deliberately go out of their way then we must take some action against them. We must sack them because those people are holding our provinces, our districts and our people to ransom with their inaction or with their apathy or with their lack of interest or with their insidious criminal behaviour perhaps.

Whatever it is, ministers, you have to manage your departmental heads. Many of them are very cunning. There are those who do work but many of them will be misleading you. You will be the ones getting into trouble while they go around doing whatever they want. And they are going to say, 'he'll last only five years, he will go, another will come and we will do the same things over and over again'.

You are the one that is appearing on the front page, you are the one that is put on TV or on *Facebook* or whatever. But you have to look at your government departments and you have to look at the systems. If you put in a good head of department, you will see that suddenly that organisation will fall into shape, things will happen.

The public servants that work under the government departmental head act according to the government department head. I went to visit the Minister for Finance, well the Secretary for Finance, to be precise. I don't disturb my minister. He is quite busy so I went to see the good secretary and I was quite impressed with his office.

I used to go to Vulupindi in the past and I tell you it was not an office that I could call - well, it just wasn't a good office I would say. But today you go there, and there is a thriving hub of activity, people are actually at their desk, there's a very conducive working environment, I was quite impressed.

And I said so to the Secretary when I went there. He was there, he called in his Deputy Secretary, both men were very positive, and those are the type of government department heads that we want. These are people who are actually performing or working so that the Minister is comfortable because he is running things. And he is running them well in accordance with the laws that he is entrusted with, to manage and administrate.

But that is quite rare. Actually about 10 per cent of the public service machinery is functioning. Gentlemen, this is my own estimate from my own observations and experience.

Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey interjecting!

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Actually, the good Member for Kavieng is correct. Many of our rural areas are suffering from a lack of capacity. It's the same in my province and in all your provinces and districts as well.

I am sure you will agree that you wish there were certain people there that you could instantly replace. They were constantly causing problems for everybody. Anyway my point is that these things are not nature's problems and they are not beyond us. They are problems that are man-made and we can solve and we have the means to solve, especially ministers and government, we are here to assist you.

Public Service Review Committee Report

And I want to also add that I am coming to the point where I want to encourage the tabling of the Public Service Review Committee Report that was brought about by the Public Service Review Committee of the last term of which I was the vice chairman. And this was an idea that I proposed to the Leader of Government Business who took it to the Prime Minister and who saw it as a great idea and we formed this Special Parliamentary Committee. Studies were done studies in four countries and produced a report that is thicker than our 400-year-old Bible.

It was very comprehensive and proposed significant wholesome changes to the Public Service machinery. Gentlemen, we must change this machinery or overhaul it, we must modernise it. It is a rusty old machine and that is one of the reasons we are not progressing. So we come here and we fight one another, argue and abuse *Facebook* but the fact of the matter is that what needs to be done is the overhaul of this Public Service machinery.

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I would like the Public Service Minister and the Prime Minister to bring this report here and let's debate it, discuss it and let's go through it. There are some recommendations that are very radical. Fine, we don't have to accept all of them, but the point is we need a starting point. We must modernise our public service machinery.

We must put in place those standards that we always want. We demand respect from others but how can they respect us when we don't have standards. Standards dictate the type of respect we get and we don't have it and that means we don't respect ourselves. How can anyone respect us when we don't respect ourselves? The way forward would be to bring that report here, let's debate it and find solutions together.

When we overhaul the public service machinery, we must also look at the public service welfare and their benefits like the K7 housing allowance that they still get. Think about it, I think it was raised to K12, but that's not much of a change. Where are you going to rent with a K12 housing allowance? Every one of them should be on contract so that when they breach that contract then it becomes easier to deal with them, whether to discipline or sack them

We must shift away from the public service mentality of delivery of goods and services. Other countries are using public-private partnership arrangements with the *Public Service Act* as an Ombudsman or oversight mechanism. That's what ought to happen. Those are my few comments and I wanted to put them out for consideration by all Members of Parliament from both sides, even those who are against *Facebook*.

Motion – That the grievances be noted – agreed to.

SPEAKER'S INVESTMENT SUMMIT – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the Chair wishes to remind you all of the huge program we have for Monday and Tuesday next week. As I speak, preparations to facilitate the first ever Speaker's Business Summit is already taking place within the Parliament precincts. These preparations will continue over the weekend.

Honourable Members who are accessing their offices during the weekend to therefore be mindful of the extra activity.

Honourable Members, I cannot stretch more the importance of your attendance and active participation in this summit. Both the exhibitions and the discussions should provide us as representatives of our people opportunities and avenues to engage with development partners in bringing forth much needed development to our community.

Honourable Members, as this is the inaugural Speaker's Investment Summit, it will be a template which will be used to organise future summits in Parliament.

I therefore urge you to take ownership of the event. The Chair reminds all honourable members that the program commences at 8.30 a.m., at the Grand Hall on Monday, 03 September. Please be prompt.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Sam Basil**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m.