

FOURTH DAY

Friday 25 January 2019

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

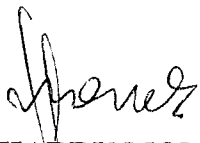
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HARRY MOMOS

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 25 January 2019

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

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

Sitting suspended.

The Acting Speaker again took the Chair at 10.55a.m. And invited the Member for Lufa, **Mr Johnson Tuke** to say Prayers.

“Good morning Papa God long Heven. Tenkyu, long nait na niupela laip yu givim tude. Mipela kam lon session long discuss long Haus bilong mipela. Tete mipela stap, laip ino gutpela tumas na mipla hat long putim stia long laip bilong man meri long dispela taim. The word was God, tok tok emi stap bipo na mipela bilip long dispela. Nau mipela bai sindaun na discuss long helpim kantri na pipol. Mipela prea na larim olgeta tingting na toktok igo long han bilong yu. Yu yet yu stap insait long toktok bilong yu na kontrolim dispela world. Tenk yu long harim prea bilong mipela, Amen”.

QUESTIONS

Government’s Strategy to Curb Lawlessness

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA –My question is directed to the Prime Minister.

This is a topical issue and it is serious. It has reared its ugly head in the front pages of the daily papers today. This is not about Alotau, but about law and order, the control of our way of living and the management of our affairs in every situation where we live in this country.

My question is very simple because the situation in question is very serious. Alotau is considered the most peaceful place in this country, but on every highway, roads and seas, pirates and thugs have been attacking people. We have raised these issues in the last sitting.

- 1) What is the Government's strategy to address this situation?
- 2) Does the Government have an action plan to tackle this?

I would like the Prime Minister to make some firm commitments to all Members of Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea that the Government does have a plan to address the very serious law and order problems that we are facing.

Mr PETER O'NEILL –Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I thank the good Governor of Gulf for this very important question. It is very unfortunate that we had to read about the about the situation in Alotau. This is because our people of Milne Bay are peaceful and 99 per cent of them are good citizens of our country. It is one of the most peaceful towns and a lot of citizens love to go there.

02/04

Milne Bay Province has always been one of the most peaceful provinces in the country. It has always been a law abiding province where a lot of Papua New Guineans and tourists visit for holidays.

It is unfortunate that one or two individuals who are basically criminals or at large, we can call them terrorists because they are causing terror amongst our people.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have sent reinforcement down to Alotau this morning. They have been tasked to hunt down these criminals and bring them to justice. We cannot tolerate these criminal activities. This criminal was arrested three times, but somehow, he managed to escape on all three occasions.

There are certainly weaknesses in our system and our people who are tasked with managing these criminals are not doing their job and this is a serious concern. I will be meeting with the Police Commissioner demanding answers and that he takes proactive action in managing this issue.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is a legacy issue in the country, the law and order management of the judicial system in our country. For decades, we have allowed our judicial system to be on the decline. We have changed commissioners during various terms of governments, but this problem seems to be ongoing and is getting worse.

I can assure you that since coming into government in 2012, we have spent a record funding for the law and order sector of this country, every year without fail. In fact, the budget

allocation is always increasing every year. With such spending, we should be getting better results yet that is not happening.

Mr Acting Speaker, I can assure you that after this afternoon's meeting with the Police Commissioner and the Minister for Police, we will be putting a very firm structure that might include reorganising the Police Force. It could include separating the operations from the administration so that admin can concentrate on managing the welfare of the Police Force, while operations concentrate on managing law and order in the country.

It will also mean revamping the training program. We have heard horror stories about unqualified young men and women being recruited to train in Bomana Police College and who should not be there in the first place. When these people pass out they cannot become better police officers in our country. However, we cannot blame the Police Force for this because between 2002 and 2012, we closed down the only police training college of our country. As a result, we did not have any new recruits coming for 10 years.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is unacceptable for a developing country like ours because we have many challenges. Today the police college is trying to catch up on the short fall of numbers because of the ageing force. We have to seriously look at this issue, but most importantly, I want to look at the welfare of our policemen and women including the other disciplinary forces.

Furthermore, this Government has increased the salary caps of the Police Force more than any Government in the past; however, the welfare demands further attention.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am thinking of establishing a separate pension fund for the Police Force including other disciplinary forces so that they can be looked after properly when they retire.

03/04

Just like any other Police Force around the world, particularly in Western countries, where their pension system is linked onto the discipline of the officers. If they become undisciplined and engage in criminal behaviour while they are working, they will lose their pension. That is the risk they have to take.

So, Mr Acting Speaker, I can assure the good Governor of Gulf that by March 4, 2019 when the Leaders' Summit begins, we will be putting forward a firm structure and reform program for the Police Force in the country. I have already asked the Minister for Police to take charge of this and leaders on both sides of the House who have experience in the law and order

will be asked to participate in putting the proposal and reform together. That will be adopted at the Leaders' Summit and then tabled for further attention of Parliament in the next session.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is necessary because even though we passed the legislations on guns and all the other things, somehow it is not taking effect in deterring the criminals from this kind of behaviour.

So, Mr Acting Speaker, it has to be handled once and for all and it will be done with very firm attention from Government. I want to assure you that by the next session of Parliament, we will bring some huge reforms in the Police Force that has never been seen in this country before and this team will be working toward achieving that.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Log Export Development Levy for Ijivitari

Mr RICHARD MASERE – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

My question is directed to the Minister for Forest and I would like the Minister for Finance to take note.

My question is in relation to the Log Export Development Levy which is commonly known by its acronym LEDL which I want to raise with the Minister this morning.

In 2018, as part of accountability and transparency of government money, we captured the LEDL funding in our budget. Unfortunately, that money was not made available to the Ijivitari District. This year, we captured it again in our budget and in our development plan as a revenue coming from the National Forest Authority. These funds are very important to us and because of logging in our district, we have structured some development plans in order to help our districts grow.

Mr Acting Speaker, these are my questions;

(1) Can the Minister give an assurance to my district that we will receive the LEDL Fund anytime this year?

(2) Can the Minister confirm when the downstream processing will come into effect?

(3) What are the benefits when we move to downstream processing for the districts and the landowners?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I would also like to thank the Member of Ijivitari, who has constantly worked closely with my office to make

certain that development levies for his district are realised. There are also other programs are still in discussion between our offices.

Mr Acting Speaker, for the interest of our viewers and public, let me make some clarifications regarding the LEDL Funds.

04/04

When logging activities take place in districts or provinces, of that harvest K8 per cubic metre goes to LEDL Trust Account that is collected by Customs and the K8 is basically money that basically money that goes to districts for infrastructure development.

The leader of the Opposition knows very well, in the recent times he was the beneficiary of about K3 million from LEDL Fund from Aitape Lumi, wouldn't be very fair so can you people keep quiet and let's talk.

The LEDL Funds are all in the trust account now thanks to the Customs Commissioner and his officers. They transferred most of the 2018 funds into the trust account after the completion of the Public Money Management Regulation process or the 9010 process which is usually the major delaying factor. This is because the funds have to go through Finance and Treasury for the process to take its place. After the process has been completed and the funds are now in the trust account – and let me also mention, Mr Acting Speaker, that the eligible districts have been identified and the correct figures and the percentages are being worked out. It is now with the LEDL Committee for final deliberations.

In the not too distant future, maybe next week or the following week, districts that are eligible will have their funds processed.

Those who already collected their funds in the past and have not acquitted, please bring in your acquittals. We will be looking at your acquittals to process your payments likewise, for those who already put in their acquittals, we will definitely process your payments and advise you accordingly.

I am still answering the questions from the LEDL, let me also at this juncture say that we do have a bill before Parliament for passing and that is the management levy that will come in next week.

We will be seriously looking at the some of the arrangement that we have with the additional levies, especially the social levies, the church levies, education levies and the health levies that are tied together with the royalties that go to the land owners.

We would like to make clear demarcation where the land owners will received their royalties and allow the other levies to go through the governors, so that the governors can use this levies, especially the social levy, the health levy, education and church levies to bring some form of development into logging areas where logging activities have been taking place.

Let get the second question on the downstream processing.

(Members interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Your correct, it is been long overdue for the last few years, very little has been done in terms of downstream processing. But, let me give some figures that might excite you.

We have figures from the Bank of Papua New Guinea that are very encouraging and that is the reason why, I say downstream processing is the way forward for this country.

When we receive statistics from Internal Revenue Commission and Bank of Papua New Guinea which clearly showed that of the 10 per cent of logs kept in country for downstream processing purposes, companies have increased it up to 20 percent downstream processing, 90 percent of which is round log exports. The 10 per cent to 20 per cent that we hold back for downstream processing have got better returns for the country than the 90 per cent to 80 per cent of the logs that are exported.

05/04

Of the returns we received from downstream processing, it shows that 51 per cent of processed logs in the country brought better returns compared to the 49 per cent of round logging exports, and this are figures that are very encouraging that has come to our attention and so the Government's plans to make certain that we achieve the 2020 banning of round logs exports must take place, it must.

Recently, I was on holidays and happened to be pass through Rabaul. We visited the KK Connection Company's downstream processing facility. It was one of the best state-of-the-art downstream processing plant in the country. This company has increased its downstream processing from 10 per cent in the last five years to 20 per cent in the last two years. The outcome of the downstream processing plant has shown promising results. We have seen the results that KK Connection has produced in the New Guinea Island. We've seen some here in

the Papua region especially Saban in Milne Bay Province, and I would like to see that we support these programmes.

The National Planning Department through the Minister and I have captured in the 2019 Budget plans to phase out round logs exports and to continue the downstream processing. We would like to see that the rest of the members support us to make certain that we realise some of the programmes that are necessary for this country, and downstream processing and agriculture is the way forward for this country.

Let me also at this juncture mention this, in the past, we issued operation licences to companies for 10 years to 15 years. We have to review those programmes and capture that in the downstream processing. So, we have made a trap ourselves, but how do we get out of those previous agreements so that we give them short term licences. By 2020 to 2021, we must phase out round log exports and concentrate on downstream processing. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Job Creation Must Match Annual Student Output

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Before I direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister the Treasurer, I would like to pass my condolences message to the young lawyer that has lost his life and generally my heartfelt sympathies to the people of Milne Bay for the incident that happened there. And I don't want this to sound sensitive in terms of the questions that I am going to ask.

Mr Acting Speaker, when we were trying to ask questions regarding the 2019 Budget, a problem also happen here and as a result, we were unable to debate the Budget. However there are questions arising from the Budget that we need to speak about because they are the cause to some of the issues we see around the country today.

Mr Acting Speaker, my people of East Sepik asked me about employment, they said, 'we need work.' We want to know what the Government doing about the job creation.

So Mr Acting Speaker, I went through the MTDP 3 and the budget and I am sad to say the numbers are unclear.

There was very little mention of it, they only talk about it but in terms of details, there is nothing in the budget.

Mr Acting Speaker, for the people of East Sepik, when we have a K16 billion budget, we expected to see some job target in the there. That is what any responsible government anywhere in the world would do.

Mr Acting Speaker, in the MTDP 3, I see that the target is only 5000 jobs between now and 2022. Last year, the Minister for Education said, some 70 thousand students are finishing school every year. So between 2018 and 2022, some three hundred and 50 thousand students will finish from school.

I want to know how we are capturing these students through our budget. We put these students through our education system without considering the amount of jobs we are supposed to be creating out of the budget.

06/04

(1) How are we correlating these students that are enter the education system with the amount of jobs we are create out of the Budget?

2019 Target for Law and Order

I am grateful that the Prime Minister mentioned the law and order issues. So my question is on law and order.

(2) What are the targets for law and order?

(3) When are we going to receive a report about the impact of the 2019, K16 billion Budget on the efforts of law and order?

Health Care Targets for 2019

Mr Acting Speaker, the next issue is the health care.

I notice that we are now issuing cheques directly to Open Members. We are no longer using Provincial Health Authority and also we are no longer using the National Department of Health. It is now a district responsibility.

(3) How do we reconcile the man-power requirement, supply requirement and all other independent organs like the Provincial Health Authority?

(4) Can we be given some health care targets that we expect to achieve under the 2019, K16 billion Budget?

Mr Acting Speaker, the people of Papua New Guinea need to understand how the National 2019 Budget directly impacts the quality of their life. I said this we passed the 2018 Budget. I am raising these question because my people prompted me to.

Police Department Spending Questioned

Mr Acting Speaker, my province receives K3000 a month for the law and order sector. These funds are used to run police operations in six districts with a population of over half a million people. My provincial Government will be giving the police an additional K30, 000 a month out of our internal revenue because we want to deal with the deteriorating law and order situation.

However the Prime Minister stated that there was a huge allocation to the Police Department.

(4) We need a reconciliation of where the Police Department is spending this money, if my province is not getting it?

If the Open Members are also spending their DSIP to fund police operations in their districts then we need to know on what is happening. Some reconciliation needs to be done.

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the Governor of East Sepik for his series of questions which are very general covering top to bottom. I don't know how, in a short space of time, without consuming the whole Question Time, can I be able to answer all these questions; from job creation; law and order; health target and the like quality of life. I don't know how I am supposed to summarise all of these things in a short span of time.

I think the best approach would be a written response to him or perhaps he can wait for the final Budget outcome report for the 2018 Budget. That is the formal reporting process where we can give long speeches and deliver large statistics to respond to this kinds of questions.

Mr Acting Speaker, the Government is continuing a process of reforms to deal with many legacy issues.

For example, one of the recurring issues is the reporting system of Government, the information gathering and the statistics that can be delivered to us in a timely and accurate manner regarding issues like job creation.

A classic example is the information released on job creation recently, it indicated that jobs in the resource sector have been increasing, while in the non-extractive sector, jobs have seen a decrease. This is contrary to a lot of what is happening in the economy around us.

In terms of 10 successive years of growth in the economy despite flowing down recently. The level of investment that is taking place. The level of physical stimulus that is taking place. Even looking at physical development taking place in the horizon such as cities like our capital Port Moresby. Through APEC and all the other investment programs and the thousands of jobs that have been created. I think one of the issues we face, is that the reporting

systems of Government, we are still struggling with statistics on how we can timely and accurately report on time.

Another example is the calculation of the Gross Domestic Product which we all continue to debate about. The recent issue was with International Monetary Fund changing the way GDP is calculated and our outdated systems in terms of that calculation. Some of the queries that arise in relation to that report are on our Budgets and it flows through all our statistics. That is why through the NID process, through the reforms at the NSO in the upcoming census, our engagement with the Australian Bureau Statistics through the World Bank and IMF, including the Medium Term Revenue Strategy that we are doing is all pointed towards tidying up all these matters.

07/04

Another example is the presentation of the Appropriation Bill. This has also been brought up to international standards which is also creating some reporting anomalies in the system as reported in the newspaper where concerns were raised by the Opposition, which are valid arguments and reasoning.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have greatly increased the revenue envelope and the Prime Minister has alluded to it as well. The funding for law and order has greatly increased. It is those mechanisms of how it is translated into actions on the ground and the reporting side of it to quantify it so that we can report what is actually happening on the ground, this remains to be the issue.

By March 31, I am supposed to come and present the final budget outcome for 2018. At that time I will use that opportunity to update Parliament on the state of the economy and how the series of reforms that we have undertaken are translated into benefits. As I said, 2018 is part of this reform programme continuing into 2019, many things have been achieved, including meeting our revenue targets, meeting all those ambitious financing initiatives that we started, including the launching of the Sovereign Bond for the first time, bringing in ADB budget support for the first time in 20 years. A lot of hard work is going on in conjunction with organisations like the IMF to fix up this GDP and its reporting system and making our accounts more transparent. We are getting the support from the international financing community, from multi-lateral agencies and hard-nosed investors because we are producing results. One of the tasks is getting those statistics in order so that we can report not only on the macro level statistics but also the micro; the small level statistics in terms of immunisation rates and infant mortality and all those important social issues reflect the quality

of life. This reporting issue in general in terms, shows how our development agenda is affecting the lives of ordinary Papua New Guineans.

I thank our good Governor for the important question. It is an on-going effort and I will bring some more details when I make the presentations on the final budget outcome report to Parliament on the 2018 Budget at the next Parliament Meeting. I will also tailor the presentation into how 2019 is progressing those reforms and results.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

PMIZ Project Madang

Mr PETER YAMA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My questions are directed to the Honourable Prime Minister and I also wish to ask the ministers for Treasury, Finance and, Commerce and Industry to take note.

Before I ask these questions, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government for including my province in the APEC Summit last year. Hosting the leaders of the world summit was very successful and left a lot of delegates from different countries or economies truly appreciating of our Madang way of hospitality when they visited Madang.

This event also created a massive impact on our economic future, enormous economic and socio-political benefits for our younger generations of the decades ahead of us. I thank the Government for that.

My questions are in relation to the PMIZ Project in Madang. As you know this Government has made a policy decision to establish special economic zones in several provinces including mine. Some of these are yet to be conceptualised and the economies initiated.

The PMIZ Project is yet to see something happening in Madang in terms of real work since its inception in 2005. Even though so much money has been spent in Madang, Honourable Prime Minister, to be honest, today there is nothing to show for it. This project has been going for 14 to 15 years now and tens of millions of kina has been spent on this project and if you have at least a project with some sort of a police station or some form of property, it will be something to be happy about.

As the Governor, I went there myself and had a look at the place. It is a very big piece of land sitting there, idle no development, nothing. The tens of millions allocated for this project are managed from Port Moresby, how could you do that? You see you manage it from Port Moresby. How can you do that, I am the Governor of Madang.

08/04

I have to be consulted on what is happening in Madang. I have been the Governor for 48 months and none of the Ministers have visited me and discussed this issue. I am still waiting for that to happen and yet there is so much loan made and a lot of money spent. Meetings have been held, land titles have been given, and hotels are being paid huge sums of money to host these meetings here in Port Moresby.

We are talking about the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone in Madang, in my province, not in Barakau or Tubuserea. Therefore my questions are straight forward.

1) Why is this project taking too long to be delivered?

It is almost 15 years and if you convert the funds already used up, it's added up to billion kina. Our reputation and credibility is also at stake. When all these funds are being drawn from big banks, your reputation as the Prime Minister is also at stake.

2) Why is it that over the last 48 months, the Madang Provincial Government has not been included in any Provincial Steering Committee Meetings?

3) Can Madang Provincial Government be given the opportunity to be in charge of the implementing this major impact project in the province?

Mr PETER O'NEILL –I thank the good Governor of Madang for his very important question regarding the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone in Madang. The PMIZ project was started by the Somare Government. Under this government, they have awarded the contract a contractor through financing from the Exim Bank. But, it encountered quite a number of problems; the project implementers, agencies, department and the leaders who were tasked to implement this project mismanaged it.

Some contracts were awarded to themselves and their cronies and as a result, the monies were paid but there is nothing to show for all this. I have been there and seen the project site. And some of the infrastructure work that was supposed to be done can hardly be seen.

My good governor your frustrations are well noted and appreciated. This project also had issues with the landowners. There was also poor consultation with ongoing environmental issues. All these have frustrated the implementation of the project. When we came into government, we re-scoped the project and redesigned it to utilize for many industries, instead of one. It is now not only limited to the fishing industry; all the other commercial industries to use it.

We are now at the verge of fully funding the Baiyer to Madang road, because Madang has huge commercial potential as a result of the access that it will have up to the population in the highlands. It will be a much shorter route than from Lae, but regardless it will serve a large population. I want to assure the Governor that we have just signed the final documentation around the Indian Exim Bank funding, of US\$100 million, of which I think US\$60 million will go towards the Baiyer road.

09/04

You will see that this program has been accelerated. We have restructured the loan and which is about \$156 million. This particular project will create thousands of job for the people of Madang during the construction phase and after when it actually operates. It will create an enormous opportunity for our people. It will also give opportunities for small to medium enterprises in Madang so they can have spin-off benefits from the project. It is also an opportunity for local contractors to fully participate in this project.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want to assure the good governor that I have spoken to the Deputy Prime Minister about making sure that this project is transferred to the provincial government to be implemented.

You as the Governor will be in-charge so I will be coming down to make sure that you implement in a timely manner.

Mr Acting Speaker, in addition, we are now re-cementing and resealing some of the CBD areas in Madang Town. One section has been completed and we are moving on to another. The Member for Madang can spend his time and money on Facebook, but I will fix Madang for him. I assure you that as the Governor, you will have my support and I will fix Madang for him, then I will see him in 2022 in Madang.

Mr Acting Speaker, let me assure you that we will be going to Madang after this session of Parliament to expand the Madang Airport and launch the Madang Terminal. The Member for Madang is invited, but if he doesn't come then we will understand.

(Laughter in Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – We will also be launching the building of six new long bridges for the rivers around Madang Province. The Banab Bridge has already been completed, so you can go and drive over it pretending that you have done something.

(Laughter in Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Acting Speaker, I can assure the Governor that we will be in Madang supporting him to move Madang while others continue talking.

Electoral Boundaries Commission Committee Status

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – I wish to direct my question to the Minister assisting the Prime Minister, who is also responsible for Bougainville Affairs, Honourable William Samb.

(1) Can the Minister confirm establishing the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) committee?

(2) Have members of this committee been appointed yet?

(3) Will the Minister undertake the committee's recommendation to be implemented before the 2022 National Elections?

EBC Must Consider Population Density

Mr Acting Speaker, there are districts with more dense populations than provinces. For example, Talasea has about 300 thousand plus people, but we are still treated as one district. It receives the same DSIP funds like the district of Rabaul which has a population of just around 50 thousand people.

(4) Can the Minister also consider the population and the geographical challenges? For example, with the Kandrian district the population has increased to about 100 thousand people; however, service delivery is a major challenge because most of those areas are maritime in nature.

The Minister considering these the population and the geographical challenges?

10/04

(5) Can the Minister confirm the re-establishing this committee?

Give Extra Funds for Densely Populated Districts

(6) If these requests for additional districts are not confirmed, can the Minister, recommend to the Treasurer to consider some special support grant for those districts with high population and huge land mass?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr WILLIAM SAMB – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to thank the Governor of West New Britain for asking this important question. Before, I answer his questions, I would like to give a brief back ground on this issue.

The first Boundary Commission was created in 1977 and subsequent ones in 1981, 1986, 1991 and recently 2006. Apart from the others the only one accepted by the Parliament was the one created in 1977. All the other subsequent ones were rejected because of ethnic groupings or political insecurity of numbers when it comes to elections. The one that we have been working on has gone beyond six years that is why last year in August, the NEC approved the establishment of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. To date, we have the Board in place, except for one board member who is over the age of 60 which disqualifies himself. I have asked the Commission to at least include a woman representative.

The two events this year that hinders the process are the Counsel Election for this year and the Referendum in June, but in my presentation to Parliament next week, I will give the statement on the progress of that.

The next thing we are doing is, appointing a woman representative and also to get the head of state endorsement and to get the TOR ready. So, hopefully after the referendum issues in June, we can start the TOR and investigation team and also report to Parliament.

Certain districts that are of interest to us at the moment; Ijivitari, Talasea, Kerema and Kairuku-Hiri. When the others qualify than we can look at that, but it is up to the Electoral Boundaries Commission to recommend to this Parliament.

I suggest that we all put our fear aside once the report is made and I am sure that we get this recommended districts divided so that we have fair representation and also fair distribution of funding.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Create an Additional District -Menyamya

Mr THOMAS PELIKA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My Supplementary Question is regarding the Bulolo Electorate. It is a very big electorate. I am from Annga; some of my people are in Eastern Highlands known as Marawaka and the Eastern Highlands Government forgets them; some are in Kaintiba and the Gulf Government forgets about them. However, for us in Morobe there is at least some recognition given to us.

So, Mr Minister, I have already written a letter to your office to consider my place because my district is remote, unlike some of you who go directly, some of us have to climb mountains to get to our place.

There is a lot of mountains and rugged terrains, and you have to be fit to walk. The other factor is, you cannot build the road because of too many high mountains.

11/04

Taking in these considerations, and it also seems the bureaucracy from Waigani is usually forgetful of the people in the rural areas even the funding does not effectively reach the people.

Do you people think the funding of K10, 000 given to a ward will bring change? It seems that we are lying, so I am asking, can you consider helping the people from Anga.

You must consider border development for areas like Lake Murray or give us some extra funding. Previously, I created what was called Anga Special Purpose Authority Funding to cater for the extra funds, to fill in the missing link.

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr WILLIAM SAMB– Thank you Member for Menamya for your supplementary.

I think that is up to the Electoral Boundaries Commission to come up with that decision. This process is basically to determine by population and land area. I also understand that Bulolo District starts from somewhere in the Markham Valley right down to the borders of Morobe Patrol Post, Sohe and also part of Goilalla, but that is something that the Boundary Commission will determine and bring here.

Another example is in Telefomin, an area in Telefomin has been located somewhere at the back of Lumi, sometimes when you consult the geographical boundary on the map, and it does not make any sense. Instead of drawing straight square or rectangles to make it simpler, they drew all kinds of shapes.

I do not know, was it about the cultural distribution or settlement of people, but the Electoral Boundaries Commission uses technical information based on the population, land area and another special factors. But, once that is in place, I want to ask the members who have expressed their interest in already to work together by assisting and advising the EBC when the project reach their districts. Thank you.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That grievances be noted.

Review Distribution Process of Development Funds

Mr JOE SUNGI – My first Grievance Debate in 2019 regarding the issue of reviewing the way we distribute the development funds. I think it is about time we look also at service improvement program formula and also how best we can improve on it. I think that is the bottom line and the only way the funds are going down to reach all our remote districts of this country and the rural areas of this country so Mr Acting Speaker, I want elaborate about it.

It is almost 7 years from now since the DSIP and PSIP was first being rolled out so it is about time that we review how best this can be redesigned to properly accommodate the most remote and the most isolated districts and LLGs in the country.

If we see classify this as political funding, we will not actually improve or increase the minimum standards and the human develop index of this country.

12/04

I've been basically debating and also talking about this issues for a very long time, since I was elected into the Parliament. It's about time that we look at how best we can do this. It's not good for us to write cheques and deliver them to Members of Parliament.

The systems should work for itself in such a way that once the budget is approved that's where we stop as politicians, as Members of Parliament. When the appropriation bill becomes an Act of Parliament, that's where we stop. We only come in to resolve at the DDAs and the JPPs.

After that we should not be going around looking for cheques like little clerks. We are not voted into the Parliament to go and become clerk. We are voted into the Parliament as parliamentarians to make laws and legislate. Why are we going to offices, bowing down to

Ministers and small officers to get DSIP and PSIP cheques? Mr Acting Speaker, we are going back to the 1980s or the 1970s. In fact, they were better than us anyway.

This is not your personal money, Minister for Planning, Minister for Finance, Minister for Treasury, Prime Minister and all ministers, this money is appropriated under the budget of this country through the laws and Acts.

Most of the members in the Government never complain because you all are hanging on the DSIP funds. What I am suggesting is we need to revise it now. We'll give it back to the ministers responsible and they should look at the best way of doing it. I think the best way is to have only one district plan, development plan that it should be used as a means by which this funding goes to.

For 2019 Budget, we can see that a lot of different programmes are under various the ministries. Now, are you going to get it, my good open members and the back benches, are you going to get it. You will be get it, if you dance to the music. Otherwise you will not get it. You will not get it, I assure you. So what I want to say is this, can we redesign, it so that the systems could work on itself. Donor funding also should come down and follow the same system. We should only have one plan to dictate for that funding and that is the district development plan. I believe it will capture everything down from where it is. Today you can see that K10 million is not enough for many remote district in this country. There should be more than that to be able to build infrastructure. There are also districts that don't even deserve K10 million, for example the NCD district. They don't deserve the K10 million, they already have enough money. Let's deal with it, let us deal with this fact Mr Acting Speaker.

This is a Grievance Debate, so you must listen. There are districts, in very remote areas that deserve more than that. NCDC, you don't deserve the K10 million, you might just get three million anyway. But the question is, where is the formula? Which formula are we using? Where is the development plan?

Mr Acting Speaker, I am speaking because most members, share our challenges, but coming here, they won't talk. So we must be able talk like we are the leaders of this country.

We are Members of the Parliament, of this country. It does not matter where you are, you can provide ideas on how best we can redesign this programme.

The Prime Minister is in charge, we know, that's okay, but can we want to be able to see that when the budget is approved, the system should work for itself. It should run to the Public Service, now the public servants have no work, they are just there because we are doing their work.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want to share as we sit for the first time for this year, let's look at the DSIP or PSIP or other sources of funding and come up with the best formula. I think the best formula is for us is to use the district development plans. The district development plan, are more than K10 million, almost half a billion.

13/04

Mr Acting Speaker, the question is, how the Government will fund the District Development Plan. I think the best way is to include donor funding as well. This is because the donors funding seems to be going to one particular district only, usually depending on who the Minister is. You will run out of lies from time to time. It cannot be hidden.

Mr Acting Speaker, let us be more genuine, let us look seriously into those districts that needs require all the support it can get. The most remote districts are very difficult to reach in terms of service delivery and the cost is increasing right now.

The question is, how do you do it, and with what formulas to redesign. How can we best assist those remote districts?

Let me use Teleformin as an example, Oksapmin is right down next to Southern Highlands; Edvaki another LLG is next to my district and the leader of the Opposition; and Yapsi is next to Vanimo Green. Teleformin is next to Western Province. So when you give K10 million to Teleformin that is a joke.

We have to redesign this allocations so that we can accommodate this districts and they can provide better services to their people.

Mr Acting Speaker, my grievance is based on how best we can contribute together as a country and assist the struggling districts. We must never politicise these funding because people are suffering.

It doesn't matter who the Prime Minister, or what Political Party we belong to. We must stand united as a country and deliver basic services based on the actual cost of service delivery to the remote maritime, inland and the most difficult Highlands districts in this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, as we start the year together, we give this task back to the Ministers responsible and the departments to design the best policies that can assist our struggling districts in the country right now.

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA (Gulf) – Mr Acting Speaker, let me take this opportunity to the Prime Minister for making a clear stand on law and order regarding my question earlier on this morning.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want to talk on a specific subject which we normally use daily in this government. This specific subject is the word consultation. What is the legal meaning of consultation? Is it framed in a constitutional manner? This is a subject matter that needs proper definition.

Consultation in the process of appointments of either provincial administrators, district administrators, provincial treasurers, district Treasurers or consultations relating to the government projects being implemented in provinces and what roles that the various stakeholders have to play.

14/04

The system of government we have in this country, which was reformed in 1995 at the lower levels, is meant to operate on consultations. When the old system of government was done away with, presidents and members of Parliament, by law, are meant to operate in the provincial assemblies and consult one another and work together on provincial plans that go from the province to the districts down to the councils and down to the wards.

I raised this point, Mr Acting Speaker, because this is not happening. We have brought in law, amendments, and legislation to ensure that this smooth flow of governance and making laws is adhered to but we have forgotten about it.

And we have tried little things. For example, the previous speaker talked about DDA, DSIP and PSIP. The DDA, today, at least in one electorate in my province is operating as a political structure. Now that's not what it's meant to be. There the Open Member becomes the political head of that structure and hand picks whoever he wants from the streets to make decisions relating to allocation of DSIP. There is no consultations with the provincial government and I am sure that many provinces and districts are in a similar situation.

Mr Acting Speaker, governors are supposed to be deputy chairmen of these structures and yet we don't get notices to attend these meetings. This changed but I am saying that in the past it has not happened and it will not happen now. But what I am saying is that this political hierarchy and the leadership that is now at the districts are using the DDA structure to make decisions that should have been made either at the provincial level or at the local level government.

So this is an area of contention but this is an area where consultation comes in. Where do you consult? What is the process of consultation that we must put in to make sure that everyone knows their place, whether it's administrative, legal or political or others? We need some real definition of the various roles of government that we play.

Mr Acting Speaker, we've got the CIMC, and the Governors' Council which meets with the Prime Minister and we are doing all these consultations at the national level. But when it comes to the actual implementation we seem to be islands on our own.

We seem to be looking after our little empire when we are supposed to be working together for the common good of our provinces and of the country. So, this is an issue that I believe we should really focus on and clear ourselves.

Another example is law reform. There is a constitutional requirement that every 10 years the *Constitution* of the country must be reviewed and a report tabled. We have not done that. We have not done the consultation.

15/04

On the electoral boundaries the Minister was not very clear and I hope he can clear it. A precedence was set where two provinces were created outside of a report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, where the Commissioner tabled a special report to have these two electorates created, when really it should have come from a report that concerns all electorates in the country, and whether provincial electorates do remain or get split into districts. These are issues that are really at the heart of our political system and representation and the way we run the various units of government in our country.

Mr Acting Speaker, these are the few remarks that I would like to make. I think we should really think about it as we go about our daily work of governing the country.

Increase Salaries for Judges

Mr PILA NININGI (Imbonggu - Minister for Higher Education, Science Research & Technology) – Mr Acting Speaker, I would also like to contribute on a particular issue which I think we have neglected so far.

Mr Acting Speaker, I worked my way up being a Judges-Associate. And one area that I feel we have failed to address is Magisterial Services. We are left with only judges.

Mr Acting Speaker, as you are the Chairman of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, please do take note as I will be making a submission on this.

Our judges are the lowest paid judges compared to their colleagues in Australia. Even New Zealand having only 4 million population pay their judges highly as well. We have to address this matter before we lose our judges to greener pastures. Before we lose credibility and start trying to recruit more judges we have to seriously look into this matter. It is high time the SRC must look into this matter and increase their salary. If they cannot increase their salary, maybe look into increasing their allowances.

For accommodation, I know that they are paid K4 000 a month, but this kind of accommodation allowance will get them to rent at a place either in Gerehu or Morata. A judge cannot live in Gerehu or Morata. We have to increase their perks and privileges so that we maintain our judges. Being a former Judge's-Associate, I have come to realise that a judge's job is a lonely job. They do not mix and mingle with others or apply out, et cetera. One classic example is the late Justice Mark Sevua, a senior judge. After he passed away, his family now have to live with relatives at 9-mile, outside Port Moresby.

It is a serious matter, so we have to look into it before we have more of our judges facing the same path or we lose them to greener pastures. Regardless of whether you are Acting Speaker or Speaker, you are the Chairman, and therefore you have the right to look into this matter.

16/04

You have the powers so you can call all the parties involved and have a meeting with them. This is a serious matter and we need to look into it. They have their problems like school fees, accommodation and their general wellbeing. We must look after and protect them from anything. I am sorry to say that but the Magisterial Services are gone. It is only the judges that we are still doing something and we need to protect them.

Their perks and privileges need to be increased because they are the only public servants who sit down and write. During the day they listen to court cases and in the night they sum up and write decisions. It is so much work load and very serious in nature. When they are out on court circuits they take along two people with them. They do not mix around with other people therefore they miss out on some of the privileges that you and I have. This is one of the many reasons why we have to properly remunerate them in their work.

I have worked with them therefore what I am debating is from experience. I am bringing it to the Floor of Parliament for us to take notice and do something about it.

Improve Training Programs for Doctors

Dr LINO TOM (Wabag) – I would like to bring before Parliament an issue regarding the medical fraternity. I brought up this issue at the beginning of 2018 and today I wish to raise it again.

Mr Acting Speaker, as we begin the new year of 2019, we must realise and take note that we have only one medical school which produces doctors but that school is understaffed. We are now using young doctors to go back and teach undergraduates. In the past we use to have some of the world renowned professors who came here to teach at the medical fraternity. However, today we are using people who recently graduated with a Master's degree and who can't get a job to teach our student doctors. I am afraid we will have problems with our future doctors if this is going to be the case. We are going to produce unqualified doctors to look after our people's health in our country. We as parliamentarians are going overseas to get medical treatment but our people back in our villages need qualified doctors to look after them.

Mr Acting Speaker, I brought this issue up last year but I am bringing it up again this year. We need to increase the remuneration packages of our doctors. As it is today, they are paid at a lectures level which is not enough. Our clinical doctors earn about three or four times more than lectures and that is why the medical faculty cannot attract doctors.

Currently there very young doctors with no proper qualifications and experience to teach our trainees. In order to teach doctors, one must have a lot of experience, researches and has in-depth knowledge into the background of health.

Mr Acting Speaker, our doctors must have their own pay structure. If we pay them under the University of Papua New Guinea structure than I'm afraid we are not going to attract good doctors. We already have some of our senior lectures who have moved on somewhere else. For example, Dr Ripa who is one of our best researchers has already moved back to Mt Hagen and has been working there for about three years now.

This has been an ongoing issue for about 10 years now so we need to look into it. Over the last 10 years we have been producing doctors who are not meeting the standards.

17/04

So this is a very important issue that we as a Government should look into and we need to also look into their pay structure and increase their pay so that we can attract doctors from overseas to come practise here in Papua New Guinea.

I realised that in the past we had some of the best doctors in the world who came and taught at the Medical Facility and as a result we were sending doctors to Australia. Our doctors

were on par with the doctors from Australia in terms of knowledge and experience but now we are not sending doctors overseas anymore. We also had attachment programs but it is not happening now.

Doctors are the leaders in the clinical fraternity and we need to produce quality doctors. We have done it in the past but it is just that we are not paying them according to their demands where we can attract and keep them at the medical fraternity so that they can teach.

Secondly, we are training a lot of qualified doctors but we are not providing them with the equipment to practise. For example, for the last 30 years we have been bringing doctors from Australia to perform Open Heart Surgery. It is not rocket science, it is easy. We have qualified doctors but we do not have the facilities for them to practice.

Yesterday, we had a paper presented by the Minister for Health regarding radiotherapy but sadly we do not have any specialist to look after that department because when Late John Niblett passed on there is no one to take over.

So, all these things are very important and we need to have a structural way of addressing this issues or else we will have a huge problem in the health fraternity in our country.

Right now we have a lot of good, qualified doctors who want to work and live in the cities. They do not want to go to rural areas because we are not making their conditions attractive to luring them into rural areas. We need to take a realistic approach in ensuring doctors living in the urban areas are going out into the rural areas to practise.

Another thing that I would like to mention is training programs. In the past, our doctors were sent to Australia for fellowship training but it is not happening anymore. Many of these doctors who go to train in Australia feel that they are inferior to the doctors there in terms of knowledge and when you feel that way you will not have healthy relationships. This is a policy matter that I think we should look at and talk with the Australian Government so we can start sending our doctors down to Australia so that they can start doing their fellowship training because it is very important. Once you have attained that level of training it helps you more to practise on that level.

We haven't been sending our doctors to Australia in the last 10 years to get that level of accreditation. It is important to look at that and if it means we need to do some policy changes, we need to do that.

One factor that may have been the English exam (IELT) that doctors have to take, which was compulsory in the past. Now they cannot go because they do not do well in this particular exam.

All these things are important for the medical fraternity. I must emphasise again that the level of training in our Institution is not up to par and we need to seriously look into it or we will be producing some incapable doctors in the future. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

18/04

DSIP funds

Mr KONI IGUAN (Markham) – Mr Acting Speaker, I wish to add on to the grievance expressed by the Member for Nuku in relation to the DSIP

Mr Acting Speaker, most members in this Parliament who have served a long time can recall in the past that no such amount of money of K10 million was given to each district. They only received a meagre sum from electoral funds for development activities. But today, we receive K10 million.

However, the process of obtaining and distributing the K10 million has become burdensome and is a common problem faced. We are concerned about such things as whether the money will be used for its intended purpose, the size of our electorates and how isolated it is, and we do worry whether others are getting more, et cetera. But as honorable members of this House, we should all have a fair idea of how much our electorates need in terms of budgeting and planning.

I am grateful to the Government for the K10 million for each district. Regardless of whether one gets more than the other, it is for the first time this Government has given priority to the district by way of the K10 million allocation. And it is because of this that I have seeing changes taking place in Markham.

I was a member before but I lost the elections because districts received very little and I was not able to deliver. But now with this large amount of money, I am sure I will win in the next elections because I have delivered.

After I lost the elections, the members that came after me were able to deliver projects as a result of the K10 million DSIP. And I only wished that amount was allocated during my term as member which would have enabled me to do a lot for my electorate.

I am again grateful that I came back to Parliament so I can use the K10 million to develop my district. And I have seeing a lot of improvement since then.

Mr Acting Speaker, I would prefer it to be increased, and I know, through the wisdom of the Government, one day, that K10 million will increase.

The Morobe Members of Parliament are pleased with the Government in relation to the Wafi- Golpu project. It is one major project that will generate a lot for economy, and I also believe help to increase the DSIP from K10 million to maybe K20 million.

I stand here to commend the Government. However, I share the grievances of other members especially on the slow delivery of the DSIP funds. We shouldn't be running around looking for this funds. I will be re-assured if I sight the cheque with my naked eye. Otherwise I have to hold other accountable if the money does not go where it is intended.

I will make sure I have to sign some paper like form 11 or something similar to confirm where the cheques is going but our public servants simply do not follow the process and what we signed with DDAs. The money earmarked for projects is spent on administration expenses.

19/04

They spend the DSIP money on hotels and hire cars and projects are never implemented. For that reason, I leave my job as a member and as a legislator and go back and follow up on the money, which I should not be doing. At the end of the day after five years, it's not the district treasurer who will answer to my people, it is me as their Member of Parliament. For that reason, I am sorry to say that we must still run after the cheque to ensure I have the cheque in my hand. If any member would like the cheque to go straight to the account then let the Finance Minister know so that it will be deposited. As for me, Mr Finance Minister, give it directly to the district.

Bad Language in Public

Mr Acting Speaker, before I take my seat, I wish to express a concern that the public in general should note. We regard our country as a Christian country. The former Speaker of Parliament introduced this Holy Bible into Parliament as a symbol of our Christianity.

However, the attitude, mindset and character of our people is in total contrast of our Christian beliefs. I did want to raise my concern to the Prime Minister during Question Time but was not given the opportunity.

Could the Prime Minister and some of the ministers responsible, through the Education Department, seriously consider including religious studies into school curriculums to educate students about the Bible?

Our children must be taught about the Bible and attain certificates to qualify them to be good citizens and Christians of this country.

Mr Acting Speaker, last year, a policy was introduced to ban the chewing of betel nut and smoking in public areas and penalties were imposed. I have noticed a drastic change when I am traveling on public transport and places because people have changed their attitudes and have come to respect each other because of this law. I thank the governors of NCD and Madang and also Morobe for implementing this policy. You will notice that people are upholding the law by not smoking and chewing in public places.

Furthermore, there is one particular profanity that is commonly used which is very offensive and demeaning to our women. This term is used loosely in public and is disrespectful to our mothers, daughters, wives, aunties and sisters.

19/04

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21/04

If K10 million goes to the electorate, they must audit us to see if we have spent the money properly. The intention was good, in that, money goes to the electorate to help the people. Cash flow is a problem. Our population is growing very fast but not the revenue.

So, any little money that we get must be looked after properly, especially me. I really need that money. Not public servants. I am angry with public servants because as I said, and the Member for Markham also said, I think some of you have not seen that some of us collude with them and enjoy ourselves.

Our people in the rural areas need minor improvements, there must be road connections, medicinal drugs must be there and other such things. That is the first point.

We must make sure that reporting system or monitoring and other checks and balances must be there. If the government has sent money, bring in people to audit the work to see if the work is really done. Whoever has done anything wrong; fix it. If they have committed serious offences show them how to do it so that the rural masses will benefit. If anybody has stolen then charge them. That is the way we do business.

I want to change the law now. Thank you that the Prime Minister and his deputy are here. I want to say that if we want to stop corruption the only way to do it is to go the American style. When any government wins an election the public servants in the system are removed and his team will come in and work. So from the DA, treasurer and other public servants, his team is engaged. That's the only way we will control and minimise corruption. So when we lose, our DA and treasurer must also vacate the offices. That is the way we can control some corruption because corruption is universal. When we pass that law, if the Prime Minister leaves, his Chief Secretary must leave too.

This is because the system as I see it today means that the public servants will still fight against us because they are loyal to a previous leader. Now I am in and I want to work, I still have to fight with them because they've been there. They are eating from public coffers using money from the system to enjoy themselves. So we need to change it.

Papua New Guinea consists of 700 or 800 clans coming together to form a nation. I thank the Father of the Nation, The Right Honourable Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, for bringing this nation together, different tribes coming together as one country. I thank him for that.

But now we have to reconsider ourselves. Why are they saying we are corrupt? It is not because of us politicians. It is the system. So I am appealing to us to change some of our cultures by changing some of the laws governing DDA.

Yesterday, I wanted to criticise the Mining Minister because we need to change the law because the Mining Law also states that the DDA has no power. That is the Mining Law as it applies to LLGs. So this Minister should amend the law. I am just a Member and I cannot talk because when there are problems in the mining sector where will the people go to? They will come to the Member.

That is why when the Minister said we broke the law I wanted to tell him straight because he has to be there to observe the law and amend it accordingly so that the DDA must be recognised because problems associated with land negotiations or the mining areas the landowner has to go and see the leader. These are some of the laws that need amending.

I am sorry if I offended the Minister because that is the way to talk and this is the appropriate forum. Do not talk to the media.

Renovate Parliament Building

My other grievance is, through you, Mr Acting Speaker, we are being attacked by mosquitoes in our offices. Our office window glasses are broken as a result of the November incident last year, where police officers broke in and I was almost killed.

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Fortunately, no one came into my face. If one should come my way, I would have killed him like a pig.

Mr Acting Speaker, why have the renovations not being done? It's an eye sore. What is happening? Do we have money to fix this mess or not?

I am very ashamed to be walking in and around this building. Glasses are broken and plywood is used to cover the damage. It is so very shameful. We are a rich country, why can't we fix the damage caused by some of our undisciplined officers?

DSIP Operations

Mr WILLIAM SAMB (Goilala –Minister Assisting the Prime Minister) – I want to also contribute towards this grievance debate. Firstly, I want to add on to what the Member for Nuku said; relating to DSIP and its operations. As the former administrator he would be aware of problems within the system. I am from the private sector and I thought the government system is straight forward but I have found the government system to be a lot of headache involved.

There is a syndrome called the 80/20. Eighty per cent are in Waigani and only 20 per cent are in the village. Last year when the accounts closed, if members had not followed and abide by it, we would face a lot of problems because whilst I am not a law maker, there are so many cheques written and we have minimum time to cash them.

When I called the Minister for Finance, there was no response so I had to send a text to him. I had to personally see the Secretary for ORD, called the provincial administrator and explain to him personally. I also advised my CEO if the cheques get held back I will charge this guys.

There were two claims, one for K20 000 and another for K40 000, just to do acquittals and for working overtime. To do acquittals they want me to hire a car, book them into a hotel and give them some allowance. You are paid from 8 a.m to 4 p.m daily to do acquittals. You do not need a special funding to do that. I think the bureaucracy needs to pull their socks up.

Mr Acting Speaker, if we do not scrutinise, things will get worse and they will raise cheques out of DDA resolutions. The admin component of K10 million, which is about K1 million is peanuts to a place like Goilala. And now we have put in K100 000 into district Works for district, I suggest that for those of us in the remote districts like Telefomin, Jimi and Goilala, not to increase the K10 million but there has to be some funds to seek out specific projects. We must go to these fund to access and carry out our projects or programs.

For example; to build a classroom in Kairuku-Hiri, my colleague Member will transport by road but I have to use air to freight my materials.

Mr Peter Isoaimo –Point of Order! Can my brother Minister use another electorate as an example because in my electorate too, I have to fly into Mount Koiari. There are no roads to travel there.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER –Your Point of Order is in order.

23/04

Mr WILLIAM SAMB –Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I withdraw my statement.

We need to address that so that we in the remote districts can also benefit. I don't complain but rather do things myself. I hope that the National Government will recognise my attempts and struggles and assist me in any way possible.

Mr Acting Speaker, with due respect to provincial administrations, I was with the Minister for National Planning and the Member for Rigo in the workshop regarding the MTD3 up at 14-mile. The Minister for National Planning is my witness that not once did the Central Provincial Administration acknowledge all the interventions that have been done in Goilala.

There have been agreements done with Rural Airstrips, FPDA, CIC, and the list goes on. With all these agreements, no one acknowledged those interventions. The National Planning Minister nudged me in the leg and said they are not acknowledging your work so I had to get up and say something. With due respect to the Governor, if it was not for the DSIP then Goilala would have been a forgotten district. I therefore respect this concept of DSIP. It is up to each Member for Parliament to maximise their funds.

Mr Acting Speaker, even when I was sitting in the Opposition benches, I never complained about the DSIP Funds, so I do not know why it is an issue that you in the Opposition keep raising. I was fully paid my DSIP Funds so I believe we must give credit where it is due. I always acknowledge what the Finance Minister does without discrimination. I support this concept so let's fine-tune the little things that we complain about here and work together to develop our country.

Improve our Human Resource

Mr PETER YAMA (Madang) – Before I go into my debate, I would firstly like to acknowledge and thank Prime Minister Honourable Peter O'Neill for giving the PMIZ Project back to the people of Madang. I also thank him for the expansion of the Madang Airport and the four-lane roads that are going to be built.

With respect to the Member for Madang, many things have been done for the good of our Madang people so we must work together for their benefit. He is a young leader but the Prime Minister and I have been around for some time but all these things are for the good of our people where we are all going to be content.

On behalf of the people of Madang and myself, I apologise if there has been inconveniences caused. He is a leader and he has same rights as we all do. I stand firmly with

this Government to work towards developing Madang. I acknowledge and thank this Government for the risks it has taken in developing Madang. I have been a businessman for the last 38 years. When the Opposition Leader, Minister for National Planning and the Member for Wau/Bulolo and Minister for Communication and Information Technology were working in Madang, I was already a businessman. I also acknowledge my powerful lawyer and Governor of NCDC, Honourable Powes Parkop. We have a very well educated Parliament here and we are supposed to work together to move this nation forward.

24/04

I have a lot of respect for the Opposition Leader who is a brother to the Prime Minister, they can argue with each other but they belong to one “hausman”

What I am trying to talk about is a big issue in the country which will ruin our future and that is the youths of tomorrow. For example; if we put K100 million towards the Taurama Road; with respect to the Governor of Port Moresby, it will not have a lot of impact on people’s lives because the money is used only on 3 to 4 kilometres of road. It will not have any benefits for the people around that area because there is no major economic activities occurring there, but if there are future plans for economic activities then it is fine, but not for 100 or 200 million. The Gerehu road leading to the back of UPNG cost K400 million. It should have been equally distributed to each of the governors to develop their areas and impact the 7 million people. But what purpose does the Gerehu road serve?

This is the problem that I am talking about. Distribute funds equally throughout the country so it will have big impact on our lives. But I am thankful to the Prime Minister for giving us the PMIZ to Madang which will have a big impact on the 500 000 people of Madang and we are blessed with all the many islands and beautiful beaches.

Mr Acting Speaker, the issue that I am worried about is our young people that are coming up for tomorrow. I have taken 100 students to Philippines and I did not ask for the Prime Minister or any Minister to assist me but it was from the little money I had and how I managed it to give them a second chance in life. If I can manage over 1 000 youths of Madang then Madang can become beautiful again. The core issue is that they do not know how to start their lives and they do not know what is good for them. We give them empty promises and with the current education system, we did not give them a second chance.

For me, I was given a second chance by a police officer from Daru, Late Jack Gamea. The highest rank he received was Assistant Chief Officer. He told me to get on the guard truck and go up to Hagen. He was reluctant at first because I only had a standard six certificate. But

he later changed his mind and told me to do correspondence and go live at Angau and in 1973 I joined the Police Force. I never wasted this chance that he gave me never and I am what I am today.

That is the reason and the drive towards my model project of giving second chances to youths on the streets of Madang. Some of us are privileged enough to become leaders because it is God's plan but for these youths one day one of them might become like me. But that is my policy for Madang and I will not leave any youth behind, everybody must obtain some skill as a carpenter, plumber, mechanic or et cetera.

Mr Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and ministers for Finance and Planning, rather than are pumping a lot of money into infrastructure and development we should invest more in human resource.

25/04

If we invest millions in human resource or the 1 million youths in this country as they are unemployed and have no hope in life, we are giving them a second chance. We can establish a human resource center in Tapini or somewhere in Asiki including Long Island in Madang. The dropouts will be placed in Raicoast and build a city. Papua New Guineans can enroll there and hire carpenters, plumbers and professionals from Burma, Philippines and Singapore to come and teach our Papua New Guineans new skills.

All these young boys will have hope and future and the country will be stable. They will engage in criminal activities and chain-reaction will take place where we would cut down number of judges and police manpower. There will be less police cars, prisons and CIS officers. It is the young that have brought problems to this nation; not the elderly. The young men and women are in charge in the villages.

When it comes to election period, they are warlords, they speak with power bypassing councillors and old people and shut them up. We have to look closely to these people and when we receive the next Budget, allocate K100 million and educate them, build their home city, give much knowledge to them and shut up their mouths. By doing this I think the country will be progressing.

I do believe, this is one of the factors that can change this country therefore this is the second time I have mentioned this. Please I am asking the Government this favour to look seriously into this issue.

Mr Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, please give me K100 million in Madang to fund this purpose. This is the only way you can change this country and your legacy will remain. They will remember you, Prime Minister, in the future. They will not remember the other prime ministers, although their legacies are memorable, but if you invest in the youth of today, you will be remembered for a lifetime.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Delayed Issuing of DSIP Cheques

Mr PETER ISOAIMO (Kairuku-Hiri) – Mr Acting Speaker, thank you for acknowledging me. Yesterday, I asked the Minister responsible about the importance of DSIP funds. I want emphasise in on the Floor that the unfair distribution of DSIP funds is not a fair way to run the Government. We are all elected members and leaders and our sole responsibility is to serve to serve our people. Holding back cheques or hiding cheques is unfair because there is only one paying agent and that is the Department of Finance.

I must honestly say that since December our officers have been visiting the Finance Department and they have being told all sorts of things. I cannot even mention here the things they have been told, but every day there is a change in the paymaster. Up until now, we have still not received our DSIP cheque. So what are we supposed to do? Are we going sit like this and watch our own people die of starvation while all the wells dry up and the bananas turn yellow,? What will they eat?

Poor Road Conditions

Mr Acting Speaker, secondly. I want to say a word of apology for going public about the road conditions in my electorate, but that is what it is.

26/04

The Hiritano Highway issue has been ongoing since the last term of Parliament. Most of the time, the Works Department always says, the Hiritano Highway receives donor funding all the time. But they forget that some portions of are worse off. The portion from Laloki to Vanapa Bridge for the last ten years has been in the same condition. The last lot of funding that was received, I think, was ten years ago.

The National Roads Authority got K10 million in road contracts and instead of fixing the road, they caused more damage and left it that way. On the western side of the city when

you go, you will see good road condition. But 9-mile onwards to Laloki is in dire need of maintenance. Does this road receive any allocation from NCD? Who's going to do it? Will the Works Department do it, or is it the responsibility of Central Provincial Government? I believe it's not in our political jurisdiction. Something has to be done about it because it's very unfair on us.

My people who engage in SMEs have to pay for the lift spring every time the vehicle runs into Moresby. They must change the tyre with everything. One of the bad sections of the road begins right after Bereina Station. It is a good short-cut road. The former Prime Minister Sir Julius and the Governor of Gulf, the then Deputy Prime Minister, both made the shortcut for the people of Gulf. That road has never got any attention to now and it is now falling apart as we speak. We are killing the SMEs in our country in this way because the expenses are getting higher.

Mr Acting Speaker, the Works Department must now concentrate on fixing existing roads before planning on linking roads.

The Governor of Gulf talked about the lack of consultation, and Kairuku-Hiri has faced the same problem. As the member, I must register my grievance in regard to consultation because most of the resource development has happened in my electorate as well. Every time when new negotiations or reviews take place, it looks like we are not in there.

The Minister for State and Enterprise assured me when responding to my questions on landowner benefits for the people of Koiari for their water resource that we would sit and talk about it but I have not met with the people who are re-negotiating the water agreement. So when our people ask us, what do we tell them? If we continuously tell them we do not know, then they think we are wasting our time here on the Floor of Parliament. Most of the time, as the Member for Menyama mentioned, when problem happen, they look to the member to come and solve the problem. When everything is fine, we forget about the member and exclude him.

Land-Grabbing

Mr Acting Speaker, my electorate is at the border of NCD and Central Province, therefore, we feel the effects of over-population in NCD and so land-grabbing becomes an issue.

27/04

It is not only the ordinary people but prominent leaders are also doing this in their electorates.

The Minister for Lands said he will solve the problems but the Lands Department is not making an effort to do so. It is causing more and more problems for us. Therefore, we must learn to respect for consultation to take place.

Separate Electorates for Kairuku and Hiri

The other issue affecting my electorate is again with the Boundaries Commission. I want to say a word of thanks to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in the work done he has done so far in identifying the bigger electorates. In the last term of Parliament, I questioned the Prime Minister and he give assurance that the Boundaries Commission will raise a proposal for debate in Parliament.

I want to make it specifically clear that Kairuku is one of the biggest electorates in the country and is the biggest electorate in the Central Province. It covers a total land area of 10,820 square kilometers and populated with 121,561 on record and estimated up to 200 000 currently. Yes, I do believe that ministers and Government will help us to split that electorate because it is funny that one electorate binds two districts. Kairuku District is totally different ethnically from the Hiri District. So in terms of service delivery, we have no choice but to spend K5 million in Kairuku and K5 million in Hiri, which is unfair to my electorate and people. Like many other electorates, the northern part of my electorate is only accessible by air towards Northern Province, and to build classrooms up at Mount Koiari is doubled the price compared to Goilala and other remote parts of the country.

There is a real need for us to split this electorate. In terms of political insecurity, I see it as a non-issue because in whichever way, I am comfortable that I will win. When it comes to splitting the electorates, then I will have a problem in deciding which side to contest. But if it means that Kairuku becomes an electorate on its own then I am confident to re-gain my seat from there. For Hiri Open, my mother is from Hiri so I am the blood son of Kairuku-Hiri. Those ones who came before me were either from Kairuku or Hiri, who knows.

Law and Order

Lastly on the law and order issue, the Prime Minister is yet to strengthen this area but I think we must legislative to implement tougher laws and punish the unlawful people because the recent shooting in Alotau, the victim is an immediate member of my family, in fact, my nephew. It is barbaric for one person to take the life of another, but unfortunately he was drove into a crossfire he was not expecting.

28/04

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Member, your time is up.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Thank you, I will conclude by saying we need to legislate to make tougher laws to really punish people perpetrating law and order issues. In that way we will prevent this from happening and as leaders on the ground from individual districts, we must spend more money and resources to contain the law and order situation.

Motion – That grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..