

THIRD DAY

Thursday 30 May 2019

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

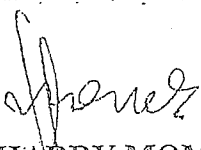
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HARRY MOMOS

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

THIRD DAY

Thursday 30 May 2019

The Parliament met at 10.am. The Speaker, Honourable **Job Pomat** took the Chair at 10:35 a.m. and invited the member for Mul- Baiyer **Honourable Koi Trappe** to say Prayers.

“Papa God, long nem bilong Jisas Kraist, na Holi Spirit. Mipela tok tenk yu tru long givim mipela gutpela dei tete. It is one special day yu givim mipela na mipela tok tenk yu. Papa God mipela tok tenk yu long yu kam long mipela, na mipela tokaut olsem dispela em kristen kantri na mipela tok tenk yu tru long dispela. Mi tok tenk yu long givim independence long mipela. Yu yet yu makim ol lida nan au mipela sanap insait long Palamen long ronim dispela kantri. Tenk yu long ol lidas bilong bipo na bilong nau. Nau long dispela dei mipela bung long makim niupla Praim Minista. Husait bai ronim dispel kantri. Tenk yu Papa God, yu givim mipela gutpela tingting long mipela ken makim dispela Praim Minista, husait bai ronim dispela kantri. Yu gutpela God na mipela askim yu long kam stap wantaim mipela taim mipela makim Praim Minista bilong mipela. Mi beten na putim mipela olgeta long han bilong yu Papa God, Amen”

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS- STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members I have to inform Parliament that the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met today and resolved that;

(a) *The National Broadcasting Corporation* will be allowed to broadcast and televise live, Questions Without Notice; and

(b) *EM TV* and *TVWAN* will be allowed to film Questions Without Notice for news purposes only and for the duration of this meeting.

ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr SPEAKER –Honourable Members, the next item of business is the election of the Prime Minister in an open ballot. In accordance with *Standing Orders* 7A 2 to 13 and 7B, and the practice of Parliament, I now call for nominations.

Mr PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Mr Speaker, I nominate Honourable James Marape and move that Honourable James Marape be elected Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

02/03

Mr CHARLIE BENJAMIN (Manus) – Mr Speaker, I have this privilege to second the motion.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Tari-Pori, do you accept the nomination?

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari – Pori) – It is my greatest privilege to accept the nomination.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH (Aitape – Lumi – Opposition Leader) – I would like to propose the Member for Ialibu-Pangia, Honourable Peter O’neill to be elected as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHAH (Vanimo – Green) – I second the Motion.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Ialibu-Pangia.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu – Pangia) – Mr Speaker, I am very privileged for this nomination and of course as I stated yesterday, twenty four hours ago, that PNC Party was mandated at the National Elections in 2017 to lead this Government under our *Organic Law on the integrity of Political Parties* Elections of 2017.

Mr Speaker, I know that we had a strong majority when we came in there and yesterday I understand the Motions were on the Floor. It is only fair the country knows that I have been defeated properly on the Floor of Parliament and it is with great pleasure that I accept the nomination

Dr ALLAN MARAT (Rabaul) – Mr Speaker, I propose the Right Honourable Sir Mekere Morauta and move that the Right Honourable Sir Mekere Morauta be elected Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

Mr JAMES DONALD (North Fly) – I second the Motion.

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA (Moresby – North-West) – Mr Speaker. I accept the nomination with great honour and privilege.

Mr PILA NININGI (Imbongu) – Mr Speaker. I move that the nomination be now closed.

Mr CHARLIE BENJAMIN (Manus) – I second the motion.

Mr SPEAKER – Nominations close.

03/03

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu – Pangia) – Mr Speaker, as I have said, it is with great pleasure that I thought that the Opposition did not have a candidate because yesterday they put a motion on the floor so I wanted to test that Motion. But unfortunately, Mr Speaker that

motion was not able to come to the floor today. In that respect I will withdraw my nomination.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, we now have two nominations and Parliament will now vote. Those of you who support, Honourable James Marape, Member for Tari –Pori, move to the right hand of the Speaker.

All honourable members who support Honourable Sir Mekere Morauta, Member for Moresby North-West go to the left hand side of the Speaker.

04/03

Voting in progress

05/03

(Voting in progress)

06/03

(Voting in progress)

07/03

(Voting in progress)

08/03

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, Mr Job Pomat) in the Chair –

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA – 8

JAMES MARAPE – 101

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I now declare the Member for Tari-Pori, Honourable James Marape as Prime Minister-elect of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER – ELECT
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have ascertain that it will be his Excellency's pleasure to receive the Prime Minister-elect at Government House forthwith.

Sitting suspended until the ringing of the Bells.

09/03

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari – Pori – Prime Minister) – Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to rise on this very auspicious occasion. Let me announce to this Parliament, I have just returned from the Government House and the Governor- General was privileged to confirm with his presence and I signed all the instruments of formalities. And today I stand humbled before you Mr Speaker, in this House, the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, before the former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and the good member for Ialibu-Pangia, and before the people of this country, as the country's eighth Prime Minister.

This is a privilege, I do not take for granted and this is an honour that I truly and humbly accept. And I on behalf of my family, my tribe, people of Tari and Pori, my people of Hela, Southern Highlands and Enga provinces, all my friends and associates, let me say thank you on their behalf for giving me this highest honour and privilege to occupy the office of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. This is a mandate passed on to me amongst a House of Equals. I look in this House and I am humbled to find amongst us, many former Prime Ministers, one of which I preceded and to notably make a mention of Sir Julius Chan, the Governor of New Ireland Province and the Honourable Paias Wingti, Governor of Western Highlands province. They are still in our House and I am truly humbled to share this Parliament with them.

Amongst us also there are many former deputy Prime Ministers from both sides of the House and they have served their country well. Their presence is still felt amongst us and I pay my respect to them; many Ministers of State and former Ministers of State and leaders of the House. Many have served their country in their own. Some first timers, some second timers and a few of us third-timers.

Yesterday myself and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Charles Abel were sitting together and we counted about five of us to be serving our third terms of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we belong to the class of 2007 and amongst us you have a pool of experience, and wisdom of leadership that I can draw from, having the hindsight, experience but more importantly for me, I am encouraged, strengthened and comforted by the fact that I have energy, youth and strength and stamina in many of our leaders who are in this House on both sides of the Floor.

Since my resignation as minister for Finance on April 11th 2019, I did it for my own reasons. The former Prime Minister doesn't know it fully but in our conversations lately, he knows why I resigned. Some were personal and others, matters pertaining to matters affecting my province and district.

10/03

For instance, infrastructure projects that were due for the people of Hela and Southern Highlands since Oil and Gas flowed from their land in 1990, matters pertaining to 4.27 per cent that was owed to them; owed to the Central Province, Gulf Province, Western Province, Southern Highlands and Hela, and also matters of how the former Prime Minister respect to run the country. He did his best absolute best under trying circumstances that I must give credit to him.

When he took office in 2012, the economic scenario in front was quite blurry. But based on the need of the country prevalent and as far as development is concerned, our government then of which I was part of, structured a deliberate deficit budget plan for few years as you saw Papua New Guinea in 2012. And so his challenges were great, and let me this time pay my commendation to him. He held the ship under trying circumstances amidst many challenges, personal challenges as well as national challenges. Along the way we may have differed a little, made mistakes a little bit; if mistakes are made then those mistakes are contestable in a competent system to assess mistakes. He did his absolute best for our country under trying circumstances and let me pay him my greatest respect to him, and none more

can be greater than what he did yesterday - putting the call of people ahead of his own personal interest.

That is a testament to the character of the Honourable Peter O'Neill, Member for Ialibu-Pangia, soft spoken, humble most times but committed, resolved to do what he sets out to do. He did exactly what he set out to do yesterday, resigning proudly as a leader of his people and as a leader of our country and I pay him my greatest respect. There is no greater love than a man that lays down his own life for his country and for the course that he believed in.

Having said this, let me pay my commendation to the Members on both sides of the House and I saw what unfolded today. There are lessons learned in the last four or five weeks culminating in the vote that took place today. They are lessons that some of us, players of both sides and all sides will take with us for a long time.

Politics can come and go but what we witnessed today transcends political boundaries, transcends ethnic divide, transcends cultural divide, and transcends religious views. Today, passing your thoughts to me represents shift of thoughts to younger generation of leadership for our country. And I want to encourage every young politician here and every young man and woman outside of this House, never to doubt your ability to stand out for what is right.

As I take this place, I am encouraged by what took place yesterday. The dynamics of what would have been a Vote of No Confidence changed yesterday through the announcement of Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill He took his research. As the Vote of No Confidence was irrelevant by the fact that resignation will precede the Vote of No Confidence, myself and 28 strong man who camped with me in *Laguna Hotel* for almost 3 to 4 weeks decided to follow me. In one bus, we went to *Grand Papua Hotel*, because that was an Independent camp separate from the *Crown camp* as well as the *Laguna Hotel camp* that we helped established. We were in *Grand Papua Hotel*, and we were waiting for a call from either the *Laguna camp* we left behind or the *Crown camp*, a call that will respect that I had 28 free thinking leaders of this country who wanted to help change the course of this country especially – and let me appreciate Honourable Garry Juffa catch cry, “taking back PNG” and we added to it giving economic independence to our Nation.

11/03

We sat in Grand Papua Hotel and I am again once more humble by the kindness gesture the Honourable Peter O'Neill, the Right Honourable Sir Julius Chan and the Honourable Sam

Basil; they had the audacity to walk from Crown to Grand Papua and met me and my team and proposed that from our team a nominee must emerge. But what baffled me or encouraged me was the fact that former Prime Minister had simplicity to say, you are not coming back to PNC. You carved out the new identity with the leaders you lead and bring that identity into our camp and take leadership and will not dilute neither suppress your identity. You maintain your identity as a group of leaders.

So today I stand before this nation and in this Honourable house humbled but also burdened, knowing the challenges before us as a nation is not easy. I've been finance minister seven years and I know all the economy is bleeding and struggling.

We will do a diagnostic into our economics right now one of the first business of our government after we have assembled a team of ministers in the coalition is we will do a holistic diagnostic about the status of our economy. The team of leaders I lead, and encouraged by some of the encouragement that I have received in Laguna, mingling with the members on the other side, are all about doing what is right for our nation - taking back our economy, looking into resource laws and at the moment our resources laws are outdated. We do not intend to chase our investors they are here to stay. We encourage them. But we will look into maximising gain from what God has given this country from our natural resources. This leadership is all about placing this country in the right place and taking back our economy.

Our forestry - we don't need no more foreigners to come in and export our forestry sector. Those players currently playing in this country, you time now is go into downstream and no round log export. We are all about maximising resources for our country fishing sector for instance, provincial governments must get involved in this sort of industries and in this sorts of space.

When we talk about autonomy to our provincial governments, we must go beyond just transfer functions but ability to raise revenue at their level. Mr Speaker, so we will look, not only in the oil and gas sector and in the mining sector. Some of us are predominantly passionate about but the greater propensity and potential of our country in all range of economic s this country is blessed with.

Today when I went to the Government House, there were sounds of jubilation along the streets and I feel burdened because I knew that right now, I don't have the magic pill neither do all of us, the magic pill to unlock and give them what they want - better services, quality health, quality education, good infrastructure and modern communication.

They must be empowered business men and business women. They have been struggling to pay off their loans and I feel for them. I play golf with a few of them. Seven to and ten years ago they'd possibly smile, not to say one is to be blamed, but the economy totally suppressed by some of the regimes we have today continues to keep ourselves bounded and bound.

Nineteen seventy five (1975) is a long time ago, ladies and gentlemen, members of this House, today I rally young freewill thinking politicians like me, fear not the past learn from it; let's move ahead and step up to the future.

12/03

Who says a conglomerate from outside will tell me I can't change the law for my country. I have every right to tweak and turn resource laws for my country that will empower my citizens for wealth. And so I rally the talent found in this House and I call for talents found outside through the public servants and I speak to you.

Every fortnight this country pays K150 million to all public servants and you work your guts out for our country. I want you to earn your honest pay.

I also pay my commendations to public servants in the far flung areas of this country. The Wuvulu Islands, the Aua Islands, the Emira, Musa, Tinga, Tabar, Woodlark, Roso, Dobu, Kiwai , Bewani, Teleformin, Nomi rivers , the Binaturu and Matingera people , you are not lost out there. The hinterlands of Gulf so close, yet so far, Karamui, Goilala, along the ranges and bushes of the New Britain islands behind Kandrian Gloucester, Pomio.

Eighty per cent of this country is still locked in enclaves of rural entrapment. Yet, those of us in cities are enjoying, while they are stuck out they and they have to be lifted.

I commend the PSIP and DSIP structure and policy proposal that our former Government has put in place, that will continue but in a manner where services reach our people. A clear, definition of what our provincial government system is, so that they too play a role in maintaining the fabric of our society and ensure that the public service structures that we have in Port Moresby is lean, thin and is shifted to provinces and districts.

This is what I envisage and what many of the 28, and the other younger generation of leadership that I am privileged to associate myself with envisage. They continue to inspire me.

I am not multitalented, I am neither a saint. I have made mistakes that I can promise you. But, I will make honest mistakes and not deliberate mistakes. In my lack of total talent and knowledge, I will draw from every one of you.

Today, I am privileged to address the Government caucus this morning and I alluded to myself as possibly a choir master or conductor in a choir. The choir master alone will not sing, it is really the singers in the choir who will sing the song to make the melody that comes out.

I beg every one of you on both sides of the House, I am just a conductor, you are the singers, let us start this new journey as we stand in the face of 2020, moving into 50 years of Independence.

I will conduct and try my absolute best and every one of you can sing your part. Some of you will sing the base part, others the soprano, the alto, the tenor, combined we can make the song that our children truly deserve in this country.

No child must be left behind, every child must be picked up. I look forward, whatever capacity I am 10 years from now, I truly want this country to be the richest black Christian nation on planet earth. God bless Papua New Guinea.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH (Aitape-Lumi) – Mr Speaker, I stand here representing the Opposition to congratulate the Member for Tari-Pori, Honourable James Marape, who was elected this morning as the eighth Prime Minister of our country.

Mr Speaker, the job of a Prime Minister is not an easy one. I am sure the former Prime Ministers will allude to that, but, I think knowing what you can do and what you can't do will go a long way in terms of making sure the Office of the Prime Minister Prime Minister functions to turn to what our people need

13/03

We stand ready to work with the Prime Minister and the new Government. It is not an easy task. Over the last few weeks, the Prime Minister and I were both in a discussion in terms of moving the country forward.

We both admitted that this time it is not an easy task for a Prime Minister. The country needs that leadership and I am sure that the Prime Minister, Honourable James Marape, will be able to be counted as the number one captain of MV Papua New Guinea.

We stand ready to lend our support, we stand ready to assist this Government in assuring that legislations, particularly with his view of the resource laws that we have in the country can be passed on the floor of parliament.

On behalf of the people of Aitape-Lumi, my family and people of Sandaun Province, let me offer our congratulations to the Honourable Member for Tari-Pori for his elevation to the position of Prime Minister, thank you very much.

(Members Applauding)

Mr CHARLES ABEL (Alotau) – Thank you, Mr speaker, I too rise on this historic occasion on behalf of my people of Alotau, and Milne Bay Province to offer my congratulations to the young energetic Papua New Guinean, who is a part of our government, who of course, chose to take certain actions which have led to this day.

I whole heartedly congratulate him on behalf of my family and my people of Alotau of on becoming the eighth Prime Minister in the Tenth Parliament of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, it is another testament to the resilience of this young country and the amazing way we conduct our political affairs and the smoothness of transition of powers that happened so peacefully, and in our own peculiar way.

Mr Speaker and I also want to take this opportunity to commend you for the way you have conducted the affairs of Parliament of which has been very challenging in the last couple of weeks. You have conducted yourself completely impartially, you have done your very best to retain order in this house. It hasn't been easy!

Mr Speaker, I know the country has been greatly challenged and our people have been held in suspense and they have witnessed some extraordinary events on the floor of Parliament.

I think it is time that we take a good look at *section 145* in the *Constitution*. We want change, change must happen. We need opportunity to vent frustration at what has happened in response to our people. At the same time, we must manage some of the disruption that happened.

Some of the way we conduct ourselves politically and some of the demeaning outcomes that happens to leaders of Parliament in relations to camping, driving around in busses, horse trading and people moving backwards and forward is highly disruptive to the conduct of government affairs.

Mr Speaker, we do need avenues because it is the intension of our *Constitution* to allow for the transition of power and to hold the executive government accountable and that is what is happened in this instant. But, perhaps not in the way our founding fathers envisioned change of power particularly after 18 months receiving the mandate of the people, one needs to think carefully on how you can build or foster a strong parliamentary system.

Allow parties to build quality policy foundations, take them to the elections get the mandate of the people and be given reasonable time to exercise that mandate and deliver those policies, without horse trading and camping and all these sort of things going on.

Mr Speaker, I apologise to the people for what has happened, but, it has led to this this wonderful opportunity for our country and I totally concur to what our Prime Minister is saying. It is time for a transition, it is time for a new generation with the support of the older generation.

Learning from those mistakes, let's move on and bring some of the change our people have been crying for. Quite frankly, many of us have also being working very hard to bring some of the policy changes that Prime Minister is talking about.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of my family and my people, I also want to extend a thanks to the former Prime Minister for his courage despite the circumstances to be brave enough to offer the opportunity and step down which may would not have dne under the same circumstances..

14/03

This man has done a lot for our country and having worked closely with him for the last eight in different capacities especially as the Deputy Prime Minister. Let us look at the good things that he has done as well as the bad things.

This is an extremely hardworking Prime Minister and he has travelled to nearly all parts of our country in an attempt to bring development to those parts. We must learn from the good things that he has done. He must learn from his openness and accessibility that you will all admit.

Having said that, we are responding to some of the not so good things that have happened and that cry is not clear and we have heard it from our people and seen it on the Floor of Parliament.

I am proud that our country in a peaceful way is responding to those challenges so that we do something about it. These are the intentions and the cry of our people that this Parliament is responding to.

I want to say to my good brother James once again that you have a team around you. You said it yourself and there is so much experience in this Parliament. We have worked together and you understand the policies and the intentions of the Government.

Mr Belden Namah – Address him as Prime Minister!

Mr CHARLES ABEL – I have said Prime Minister several times. I am congratulating him and thanking him. My brother, we stand here to work with you to progress this country and to realise all the opportunities that God has given us through the resources of our country.

There are many challenges ahead of us and you said it yourself. It is a difficult job being Prime Minister. You will feel those burdens coming upon you as you take the office today, my Prime Minister.

We have the LLG Elections coming up and the Bougainville Referendum that is before us. Some of the economic issues which are self-made and also through circumstances beyond our control including all the development challenges of our people.

I want to congratulate you once again Honourable James Marape, Member for Tari-Pori and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. We all stand ready as the Opposition Leader has put it as a unified Parliament to support you over the next three years to realise your dreams and the dreams of our people. Thank you.

Mr DAVIS STEVEN (Esa'ala) – Let me first of all, thank you, Mr Speaker, for the part you have played in the last few days in ensuring that this outcome is reached.

I also want to pay respect to the outgoing Prime Minister and the Member for Ialibu-Pangia, Honourable Peter O'Neill Only time will judge the work you have done for our great nation.

We thank you for embracing us the young leaders who have come during your time. Thank you for pointing us to the rural population of our great nation in the policies that we have embraced especially in the DSIP and others.

As I turn to offer the commendation to the honourable eighth Prime Minister in the Tenth Parliament, I am reminded that the great hallmarks of leadership is not just in the ability to lead but also in the humility to serve.

Today, I congratulate you Honourable James Marape in becoming the eighth Prime Minister our Papua New Guinea. I also acknowledge the good and proud people of Tari-Pori who you have done great honour in your elevation as Prime Minister in this Parliament.

I did witness the journey on the 18 April 2019, where you resigned and I did follow you in the ensuing 42 days of that journey. You will remember a band of 28 young leaders who you called and today we honour you as the Prime Minister of our country, Papua New Guinea.

I followed you in this journey and I witnessed the love and the strength that you gathered in the many friends and leaders through your church and through your own connections none more so than the woman that kept the warmth of our company – your wife.

15/03

Today, I speak on behalf of all our mothers and all the women who make our houses our homes, and build our children – the next generation of our land.

I commend your wife. She was at Boroko, she was at Laguna Hotel and she was at the Grand Papua Hotel and she was perhaps at the peripheries of Crowne Plaza Hotel and she is here today. She must be honoured, for behind every great man, is a great woman who prays and who cares for the man that she sends to the field.

I followed you to Laguna Hotel, Mr Prime Minister and for the first time, we had the opportunity to relate with and better appreciate the leaders of this great land who sit on the other side of the House. For the first time, we were able to rub shoulders, learn their names, chat with them and better appreciate that ours is a great land, a nation of many challenges and a nation of many promises.

We met and befriended the younger leaders and those who stood to guide us, the emerging Governors, the former ministers, and the ministers-in-waiting. In this journey, that the Prime Minister and I witnessed the leadership that is waiting to be untied around the challenges we face. I saw how, this side of the House came around you and fought for the outcomes we wanted and needed.

Mr Speaker, I witnessed how the elders that you brought with you and the elders from this side provided counsel when you needed it and how they encouraged you when those who you sought turned you away.

I witnessed how you borrowed the slogan of 'Taking Back Papua New Guinea and Taking back Our Economy' from my dear friend, the Honourable Governor for Northern, who did not vote for you today. But, it is a slogan you adopted together with the band of the 28 and those who followed you later on.

I hope you will find it in your heart and the time to pay a visit and commend them and to do a greater work and greater thing now that the challenge and the opportunity is with you.

In your own analogy his morning, you said, that you assume the role of a conductor of a choir. As you no doubt know from the Seventh Day Adventist background and Methodist background, choir is part of our tradition. It is not a surprise that the Prime Minister adopted that analogy, because a choir has different parts and it must produce not just a song, but a harmony. The sound must bring rejoicing and delight to the hearts of those who hear.

Today, as a new song begins, I challenge you, Mr Prime Minister, to put together the choir from amongst your friends so that the music that goes out to the people of our great nation must be one that unites us. It must be one that inspires the hope and the combined faith in this great nation, uniting the diversity of our people.

One might ask, Mr Prime Minister, so what song do we sing? There are great many songs, you borrowed the song of the Opposition in winning back and giving back Papua New Guinea to our people. We have our great national anthem that speaks of a nation whose name must be shouted over the mountains for the world to hear, for the next generation to hear and to believe.

16/03

But, I also know that in the great words of a hymn, you might find comfort Mr Prime Minister, an old hymn that says; *In times like this, oh be not idle, In time like this, you need an anchor, In times like this, you have an anchor, it says; Be very sure that your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.*

I conclude, by expressing how grateful I am, for the opportunity to have witnessed this journey. In doing so, it was an opportunity to see an enormity of the work that befalls us today. The work that is necessary to rebuild our economy, to restore the rule of law and to fight corruption like we hate it, for what it is. The work that is involved in modernising and

transforming our governance framework and integrity of our institutions. And in doing so, we lay the foundation for a better country for our people, nation and our children.

Once again on behalf of our people of Esa'ala in the Milne Bay Province, on behalf of the band, the young man who journeyed with you, on behalf of you friends whom you met along this journey in the last 42 days, and many others who spoken to you, on behalf of the Christian Community, the praying Church out there and our people of this great nation, I commend you. Thank you.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – On behalf of the people of Northern Province, I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Honourable Member for Tari-Pori, son of Hela, James Marape,.

I will keep my speech short, firstly, I want to thank him for using the catch phrase, the war cry – 'Take back PNG', which he asked me for it. We have always communicated with each other and I have known James Marape, the eighth Prime Minister, for more than 20 years. He has been my big brother all the time and that relationship and connection still remains. He asked me if he could use this phrase and I was honoured. I told him, you may use it, it is not mine. It is for the eight million people of PNG.

The people are the shareholders of this great nation, land and economy. The land meaning everything on it and underneath it and the people. They are the greatest asset that we have – the people.

The economy, which we do not own, which truly would signify the true independence of any nation. The ownership of the economy and to achieve that, there is a long pathway ahead and we must devise the laws that belong to us – our laws. The current laws that we work under are not our laws. They are colonial laws, devised and developed for the benefit of others. Therefore, we must devise our laws for the benefit of ourselves and our eight million people that we claim to represent in this House.

Only those who own the economy will be able to design the future, right now, we don't own the economy so we are not in a position to design the future. We must own the economy, fish canneries, timber mills, gas processing facilities and manufacturing plant that we can call our own.

Dear Mr Prime Minister, you have a mixture of young men and wisdom men so use them both.

17/03

Let us not cast out our elders and let us not say that we have forgotten them, that is not the Melanesian way. Remember them, they have wisdom, they have gained much experience along the way. Do not forget our young men, they too are leaders, they too are elected by their people to represent them. Your back benchers, not everyone is going to have a Ministry but allocate Parliamentary Committees which are the important and vital bread and butter work of Parliament. They must be revived and funded so that they can also do what they are supposed to be doing.

Mr Speaker, do not forget your Governors, I am biased here, but one of the reasons why we are here today is because the Governors were unhappy, neglected and forgotten. You develop those provinces so that their sub-economies can contribute significantly to this country. So that they are allowed to collect their taxes and revenues and manage their affairs without having to run to ministries to wait like little boys. They will be satisfied and they will support you.

Mr Prime Minister. If you don't pay attention to them, there will be problems, because they represent the entire nation.

We have to look at our taxes. Our people are over taxed, and we pay the highest tax in the region – 35 per cent on income. This is too much and I propose that we remove taxes on resignations, retirement and retrenchment benefits for our public servants and our Papua New Guinean workers. They do not need to pay taxes. They live in the richest country in the world. Meanwhile, we have given too much tax-exemptions and tax holidays to all types of criminal cartels and pirates that have come here to enrich themselves at our cost.

Our national security is another issue. Our gates are wide open, all types of criminal cartels and trans-national criminal organisations are now in this country and they have taken over our resources. They are benefitting and structuring our future. This is a very dark future for you and I, but it is a bright future for them as they build empires off shore. We need to pay attention to these. We are the keepers of the gate and have to be mindful of who comes and goes.

Yes we want genuine investors, but they must respect who we are as the people of this nation. They must respect our law and if they are not going to do so then we must not be afraid to show them door or even boot them if necessary. I for one am willing to do that for you, Mr Prime Minister. Prime Minister.

You must protect and respect your Ministers, allow them the freedom to make their own decisions, to run their Ministries, not be undermined and manipulated by outside forces. Give them the trust that they gave you and work with them. We have to table our inquiries as they have cost us a lot of money and our people demand answers.

Let us work together. We on this side of the House are willing to work with you.

Mr Speaker, at this juncture, let me say why I did not vote for you. It is because you had won. I had to be here to ensure that at all times, the people of this country have a voice. That they have someone here to stand and speak for them. I knew you had won and I already knew you had won when we first spoke. And that was what I had to do. And through it all and even now you still respect that and I appreciate that. Do not be vindictive, do not be personal.

I have travelled districts and stations and they are crumbling and dying as I speak. They are not what they used to be. Once mini-thriving economic hubs are today crumbling and overgrown with elephant grass. Our people are drifting to towns to seek a better life. We have to find a way to send them back home. They will go home if we build those districts and stations for them. We can do it, because our resources are so significant.

For instance we have 67 trillion cubic feet of gas and only 17 has been used so far by unfair deals, which I will not talk about, not for now. But, let us look at how we can use the rest, for our benefit and for the region as well. I want to look at aid, often times we look at the foreign aid that comes to our country is here to help us. No, the foreign aid is here to market propaganda for the donor countries themselves. If we keep relying on foreign aid we will never grow up.

18/03

We must manage what we have and we must look at foreign aid so they do what we want, rather than building a small projects with huge sign boards to advertise what they did for us, thus undermining us.

My Prime Minister, we in this House are ready to stand and work with you and your young team. The experienced leaders are also there to help you. There is much work to be done. We have spent a long time blaming Honourable Peter O'Neill for what has happened to this country, but we all of us must take a hard long look in the mirror and ask ourselves, what we have done as leaders? What have we done for our country?

Thank you very much.

Mr WILLIAM POWI (Southern Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on behalf of my family, the people of Southern Highlands Province and the silent majority of this beautiful Country, to congratulate Honourable James Marape, Member for Tari-Pori as our Prime Minister-elect and to acknowledge our outgoing Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O’Neill, Member for Ialibu-Pangia.

I rise to commend and congratulate these two very fine leaders who have tested, tried, debated and played a democratic political game, the game, our founding fathers have played.

Among us here, The Right Honourable, Sir Julius Chan, Governor of New Ireland Province, who takes us back to the years when some of us were not around and pays visits to a colourful history of this game. In his book titled ‘*Playing the Game*’, he has been actively playing the game among us the last few years.

Mr Speaker, we have played this game, our people have been the spectators. Watching us on social media, television, through the daily newspapers and physically along the sidelines of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, what is impressing is, the Honourable James Marape and Honourable Peter O’Neill, the captains of our recent game belong to the same Party and that we all know.

The Honourable James Marape, and Honourable Peter O; Neill until very recently, in 2012, belong to the same Province and are very good friends. What has surprised many of us is when it comes to how best we can serve our people, we learned that the two differed in many respects. Perhaps out of respect, stability and loyalty of all of them, they remained together despite this differences until recently.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable James Marape, the son of a Seventh Day Adventist Church Pastor with the heart and the attitude of a shepherd, promised his people of Tari-Pori that if he did not cause the Government to seal the Highlands Highway, all the way from Mendi to Hela, and from there to Komo into Kopiago, he would leave the Government.

I have heard that from him many times and we all have heard from him yesterday. He had stepped down from his Ministry and his privileges for the sake of his people, when he resigned and walked out. He lived true to his word to his people.

Mr Speaker. The Honourable James Marape, has proven to his people that he is a man of your word. Leaders in this Honourable House can take comfort knowing that you now have a Prime Minister who can keep his word, replacing a very talented, practical, active and visionary Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O’Neill

Mr Speaker, what is the price, perhaps me and my other colleagues, if the loving and forgiving heart of our outgoing Prime Minister. Let the biblical story of the prodigal son, Honourable James Marape return and Honourable Peter O'Neill received him with warm open arms.

19/03

Like the biblical story of the prodigal son, the Honourable James Marape returned and Honourable Peter O'Neill received him with warm open arms. I am humbled, you have demonstrated great leadership of reconciliation, restoration and respect. This is a legacy that will be left behind for others to tell.

We have lived to witness the living principles of the living word of God in this Chamber come alive in this very act of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Mr Speaker, before our separation with Hela, Southern Highlands became the first oil producing province since 1992. Hides gas became the first gas producing field in the country whilst Kutubu was the first oil producing field Gobe, Moran, and south-east Manada oil fields were added later.

Then came the PNG LNG projects with the hype and fanfare we developed this projects creating more peak of expectations of riches and wealth and transformation of the last province in the country to become the first.

Mr Speaker when this did not happen cargo cult mentality and free government handout culture crept in. Managing such unrealistic community of people coming out of the stone age into today's information age became formidable even to battle hardened and tested politicians. It is simply difficult.

Mr Speaker, sometimes we are misconceived by others, sometimes we are mocked and laughed at, sometimes we are criticised and ashamed.

Mr Speaker, being redefined by this battle of hardship pain and combined with a heart of a shepherd, I believed the Honourable James Marape as Prime Minister will lead this country well and hear the cries of our people.

Congratulations Honourable James Marape, on your election as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea today. I salute you and your people of Tari Pori. I believe you will allow the lessons of life and ensure you attend to the cries of our people.

I asked that you hear the voices of our people speaking to you through their elected representatives on both sides of this House irrespective of our seating arrangement, political affiliations and social and cultural differences.

I trust that you will hear the cry, the anguishes and wishes of our people through their representative in this House for a fair, honest and transparent manner.

Mr Speaker, I am also proud of the Honourable Peter O'Neill who declared his resignation in Parliament. I am sure will be added in the political records of Papua New Guinea as the first honourable and noblest act you have taken to preserve and serve guard the unity and integrity of our young democratic nation.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Peter O'Neill's action should lay the foundations for current and future leaders to follow, particularly when the Prime Minister fails to keep the confidence and trust of the ruling party. This humble act sets you apart.

Mr Speaker you are the first Prime Minister in this country to resign. It proves that you are not here for name, fame, power, but for the people. Despite all the wonderful things that the former Prime Minister Peter O'Neill achieved for this country during his short term, the people have cried for change and he heard them. I salute you.

I will always honour and respect you as a leader, colleague and friend. I thanked you and your family and the people of Ialibu-Pangia for producing such a honourable leader like you.

Mr Speaker, I now call upon the Prime Minister-elect, to call for a national unity. The outgoing Prime Minister has under Alotau Accord I and II, pledged to give more powers to the provincial governments through autonomous arrangements as a means to keep the unity of this country.

20/03

This of course seeks to implement NEC decision of 106/2009 made on 6 June, 2009. I call on the new Prime minister to carry this baton handed to you by our outgoing Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, we also need to maintain national unity by giving confidence and comfort to the people of Papua New Guinea represented through their elected leaders located under different political parties and camps within the city during the last few weeks leading up to the leadership change. The Laguna camp, the Grand Papua camp, the Crowne Plaza camp and all other camps must be united.

Mr Speaker, the call for unity must be demonstrated through fair allocation of ministries representing various parts of the country, irrespective of party affiliations or other factors. Fairness must also apply in allocation of work and projects.

I further call upon the Prime Minister-elect to assemble a pool of talented locals in various technical expertise and national intellectuals from every field, irrespective of regional differences to review our laws, economic policies and administrative structures and governance to help the Government design and develop a home-grown pathway to economic self-reliance.

We must promote national unity through reconciliation, respect, caring and sharing through the Melanesian way.

God bless Papua New Guinea and congratulations to the Prime Minister Honourable James Marape.

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA (Moresby North West) –I join our colleagues in congratulating the Prime Minister Mr James Marape, on behalf of the people of North West. You won well and convincingly. Your win reminds me of the time when I was elected. It was a massive win and I congratulate you.

Anyone can be a Prime minister, being one is an honour and privilege and I know that you will use it well. For the people of Papua New Guinea; today we have a new Prime Minister, but the same Government.

Prime Minister, you have to change the course of MV PNG because the course that we are following now, we are facing cyclonic winds and heavy weather and the Papua New Guineans are suffering.

On our side, maybe you have not noticed, but we helped you in your election to become the Prime Minister. We will support you and your Government if your policies are right for us and the issues you take are those we support. We will be critical because it is the role we play on this side.

Prime Minister, you have a large and heavy task ahead of you. The people of Papua New Guinea are suffering. If you want to demonstrate that your government will set a new course, one that is different from the government that you left and re-joined and you need to address a number of challenges.

Let me just outline a few of them. You needs to address corruption and abuse, mismanagement of public finances, and a growing mountain of debts. The recession in the mining sector with job losses and companies starting expenditure and laying off of workers.

Shortage of foreign exchange which is affecting many businesses along with huge shares owed by the Government to the very businesses. Hospitals and health centres are short of drugs and consumables and equipment and schools are struggling because they have not being paid in full and on time the subsidies for teaching materials.

Basic infrastructure crumbling in most parts of the country. Mr Prime Minister, the people of Papua New Guinea want change.

21/03

They wanted a new government, they do not want flowery words then empty promises. They want an end to their problems and their sufferings; they want hope, they want order, they want opportunities to earn incomes and to participate in change that is taking place. They want government for the people not the few.

Prime Minister your government has to solve these problems and lay a foundation for growth and sustainable development. Papua New Guinea is one of two countries in the world that failed to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals and we have not made a good start on the new Sustainable Development Goals, agreed by 170 countries including Papua New Guinea.

Prime Minister, we must and we can do better. We need proper data on living standards of our people so that people are at the forefront of our policies, so that we can evaluate programs, so that we can maximise impact; we need to find ways to improve spending on and management of basic services such as health, education and infrastructure. And finally Prime Minister, the people want your government to strengthen democracy. Our *Constitution* is fabricated on the power of the people to be represented in parliament with checks and balances from an independent Judiciary, constitutional office holders, independent and professional public service and independent media.

The motto is 'Take Back PNG', but let me say that is the only first take I thought Papua New Guinea let us take back and share the benefits of development equally. Equally! The people want a Government for all people, all Papua New Guineans, 22 Provinces, 89 Districts, 8.6 million men, women and children as well as sharing power with people. The

people want the Government to share the benefits of development more equally between people and the region.

Mr Prime Minister, if you can show the people of Papua New Guinea that you will set a new course by taking such actions, you will earn the support and respect but if you do not set a new course, the nation's problems, suffering of people will become greater, people will rightly wonder, why they have a new Prime Minister. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr PUKA TEMU (Abau) – Thank you Mr Speaker, on behalf of my people of Abau and my family, let me have this privilege of associating myself with former Speakers in congratulating the Honourable James Marape today the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Congratulations!

In the ridges of our country I was perhaps, the older amongst the 28, that followed you around as you left the government, the reason why I followed you was because when you came in as Member for Tari- Pori after the 2007 Elections, I saw enormous potential in you as a young, well educated, passionate decisive leader from Hela Region but it was the new Province that wanted some leadership.

22/03

As you recall while I was the Acting Prime Minister who chaired that Cabinet Meeting, I had to fight the late Anderson Aigiru who wanted somebody else to be the transitional chairman of the new province. I however, decided to appoint you because I saw in you enormous potential. From this part of the country, I am one of those few who gave you the recognition as one of the upcoming young leaders.

Mr Speaker, when you walked out in April, the Member for Telefomin, the Member for Maprik and the Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough called me and said, can you come with us because we want you to be there in that camp. When I arrived, I wondered why you have already communicated with the Opposition. I must say that I was privileged to be there a day before the Opposition Team arrived. As we shared all the moments with the leaders in the Opposition, it dawned on me that the path that you have chosen was already walked by the good Lord that you have always acknowledged.

Mr Speaker, why is it that you went and interfaced with the Opposition Team? Today the nation has witnessed what has rarely happened in our young democracy. You now have a grand coalition formed in your Government today. Mr Prime Minister, you can be assured

that you have the support of the entire Parliament and through social media outlets you can also be assured that you have the support of the entire nation.

I was privileged on that Sunday morning when we came in and asked the preacher to come and preach to us. His theme was seeking the wisdom from God. You then asked us to speak and one speaker was the young Member for Madang, Honourable Bryan Kramer who is in the Opposition benches. When he spoke passionately, I saw tears running down his eyes. I concur with Sir Julius Chan's speech yesterday that we have a make believe belief that the Opposition is the Government's enemy and vice versa. This has to now stop.

Mr Prime Minister, I think we are now turning a brand new leaf. Under your leadership you already have the nation together. I am one of the proudest leaders in this country today because of what has just happened. In the face of social media today, what we have demonstrated to the world is the Melanesian Way of our leadership. We have transitioned peacefully and smoothly to have you seated as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. You have the support of the people of Papua New Guinea. You have the support of the Parliament and we will now wait on you to make the decisions that must be made. We will support you.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of my people of Abau, I congratulate you. I request only two things. Firstly, no Prime Minister has officially visited the Central Province. Being in Port Moresby is not being in Central Province so please remember the Central Province. Please visit us.

23/03

My second request is, this afternoon or tomorrow, please release the funds needed for the Referendum.

Mr MICHAEL NALI (Mendi) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will be brief as most things were already said by the leaders who spoke before me. I want to congratulate the new Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Honourable James Marape, and Member for Tari-Pori. At the same time, I want to say thank you and acknowledge the many good deeds done by the Member for Ialibu Pangia, Honourable Peter O'Neill

Mr Speaker, now we are celebrating the election of a new Prime Minister and we are all in a moment of jubilation. This was the same mood when the former Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was elected the Prime Minister. Even during the time when Honourable Paias Wingti and Right Honourable Sir Julius Chan were elected as Prime Ministers.

There is always a celebration but there will come a time when the memories of this event will be forgotten, trampled upon and even ridiculed.

For the time being though, Mr Speaker, on behalf of my family, my tribesman and my fans throughout the country, I congratulate the Prime Minister.

In 1996, when I was the Leader of People Progress Party- and I can still recall that time, when the Prime Minister stood for election for the Tari-Pori Open Seat. Back then, we were one province and I won by a landslide in Southern Highlands but you came second.

We had to hop on an old worn out land cruiser which had malfunctioned doors and we campaigned tirelessly. Those were the humble days. You are a child of a village pastor, you also originate from as traditional 'haus man'.

In my view, many of us seated here were brought up in the village and we were taught the tradition and customs of our villages; therefore we are aware and we live according to the ethics and principles and values bestowed on us as we grew up. I am pleased about it.

However, I have five sons and I have three daughters and I don't know how their lives will turn out tomorrow. This does not mean that I underestimate them or that they are less educated. I am greatly concerned they do not know the culture and traditions of the society I come from. They don't know my mother tongue. That is a big problem, I am sure some of you can relate to this challenge. Only a few of you are lucky enough to have children who can speak the language that our forefathers spoke. So that also carries the challenge of life today.

Mr Speaker, many young man from Southern Highlands and Hela respect me, look up to me as a father-figure, I appreciate that.

24/03

And now I am so happy that one of my son has become the Prime Minister and I congratulate him for that.

In most of my speeches, I emphasise always that; *'always tell the truth and don't demand respect but be honest to earn respect and always do the right thing'* and these was phrase that I told you in 1996 and it still remains.

Mr Speaker, I want to tell this young Prime Minister of ours to be very careful because comes tomorrow those of us here who are congratulating you will go against you and it does happen at times. But our core responsibility on this Floor of Parliament is to provide leadership and think of our people and represent them well.

My advice to you is that when you create your ministerial line up with their portfolios firstly you must have trust in that leader that you appoint and delegate responsibilities accordingly and you monitor them from the control room so that they truly serve the interest of our people.

Mr Speaker, I don't have much to say but I want to ask the Prime Minister through you Mr Speaker, that our country since gaining Independence in 1975 up till now we had many Prime Ministers with their Governments who have manipulated our people with all sorts of policies and ideas.

And you are the Eight Prime Minister now, every new Government comes with their own policies and guidelines to follow and this country is not steady with fixed policies and ideas to follow and that practise has already been rooted in the mind sets of every government of the day. What we really need in this country is for someone to have a positive mindset and put a total stop to corrupt practices or other illegal activities. We seriously need someone of nil corrupt practices who will say no to all bad practices.

Through you Prime Minister, be prepared to face those challenges in 2022, let this country witness whoever Prime Minister is ready to say no to many illegal activities. We lack these mindset very much because we are scare of losing our seats, because they are not permanent seats. I am talking about both the Prime Ministers seats and the open electorate seats as well.

Some of us are fearful of losing our seats which I am not pinpointing at anyone but myself. I am scared that I might lose my seat so I have to abide and follow my supporter. Some of the decisions which I am supposed to make is always ignored and delayed and that's one major obstacle affecting this country.

Mr Speaker, I personally believe strongly that there is no men or women in PNG that will starve to death or complain about not having this and that. We are the most fortunate people because we are blessed with so many things. Comparing us with Australians, we are totally different from them because their culture, land and laws don't grant them all the freedom like we Papua New Guineans.

For instance, up in the Highlands the government and organisations introduced to us how to work the land and grow coffee. But now we ignore coffee completely and instead we keep our eyes focused on electing members to Parliament.

25/03

On the coast, there is copra and cocoa but the people are saying that the prices are not good so they are not working on their plots. I thought this mentality is only in the highlands but it seems to be everywhere. When are we going to stop this handout mentality? It does not matter as to the type of laws we create in whatever shape or colour, our problem remains and the problem is the mentality of our people.

Mr Speaker, I want to say this to the Prime Minister, please do not promise everyone milk and honey. There is not one safe that holds all the milk and honey for everyone. Do not make promises to the country and its people because there is no milk and honey. You have been in the last government as the Minister for Finance and you held that portfolio for a long time. You know the difficulty and the challenges there before you and I am sure you know what I am talking about.

Be prepared to take those challenges and you must communicate with your wife and family. They must be well aware of your added responsibilities. There will be critics and well-wishers, be prepared for it. Men and women of this country are going to challenge you and, I know you are man enough to take it but make sure your family must be prepared to support you in your added responsibilities. A lot of times there will be a lot of sweet talkers but they are just con-artists. You must also take negativity into consideration as well. For instance back home there are men who will say let us go and fight with all their weapons but there is a silent voice behind that will say let us stop to think first. Most times that little voice at the corner is the right voice.

Mr Speaker, having said that, I have trust and confidence and since 1996 I was with this young man, our Prime Minister, we referred to each other as father and son. Now you are Prime minister, I will not call you son anymore. I must address you appropriately. It won't be easy but I know you can do it. You cannot do it alone; you need the support of men on this Floor of Parliament. I do not want you to become like the others. If you see there are better leaders on the Opposition, they are not your enemies, forge a friendship and work together. When we create a division of Opposition and Government, the very people we are here to serve miss out and these are our people.

We come into Parliament, stand on the Floor of this House and speak as if we are angels but really we are not. So I want us to try and do things differently in our time. Thank you and congratulations to the Prime Minister.

26/03

Mr Koni Iguan – Point of Order! I would like to remind us all that, we are all trying to congratulate the newly elected Prime Minister. So can we minimise the debate.

Mr Speaker, I would like you to be fair to all the provinces. Morobe is a big province and I am using my Point of Order to congratulate the Honourable Prime Minister elect and to thank the outgoing Prime Minister for the good work he has done.

(Laughter in the chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Your Point of Order has been settled. Honourable members, since all Members want to speak, I will allow each Member to talk for five minutes.

I will now entertain the Governor for Western Highlands to speak then the Governor for Morobe afterwards.

Mr PAIAS WINGTI (Western Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the people of Western Highlands, I want to congratulate the honourable Member for Tari-Pori, Mr James Marape who became our Prime Minister today.

Being the Prime Minister of a country is a very difficult position. There were seven of us before and I thank each one of them. The grand chief laid the foundation and done so many things for our country, followed by Sir Julius Chan, myself, Sir Mekere Morauta, Sir Bill Skate, Honourable Sir Rabbie Namaliu, Sir Mekere Morauta and Honourable Peter O'Neill Every man who once occupied that position has made a substantial contribution to this country. Every man had his weaknesses and his strengths but when you look at it in an overall picture, Prime Minister, they have done their best. Our country has been one per their time in power. Nothing has happened so credit must go to all the former Prime Ministers and people who have really work hard to bring this country this far.

Mr Speaker, this is a new opening and a new era for a young man to become the Prime Minister of our country. I was so humbled today, I witnessed all of you coming together and casting your votes for him. That is good for Papua New Guinea in that you are all united in your support for him.

Mr Prime Minister, you have the support today. What is going to happen for our country is the decisions and the actions that your Government will make for our country. Whatever the people of Papua New Guinea are going to go through will depend your

leadership as Prime Minister. Your decisions and actions will determine how the people perceive your Government.

Mr Speaker, much will come from leaders who you chose to be ministers in your Cabinet. I urge you to select people of integrity, man with character, man that people of Papua New Guinea respect. When you have a team like this, that team will be respected by the people and people will perform in their capacity and contribute to the development of the country. You will not be running the country by yourself but a team working together.

I was so happy when you said, you are going to be the conductor, and those team of 39 man will play the music and do the many things which will change the country. The actions of the 39 will very much determine what this country is going to be like.

I appeal to you Prime Minister, do not associate with corruption and people with questionable character. Refrain from associating with such people and associate yourself with people who display the right image of this country.

The people of this Country are waiting for the Electoral Office to be fixed. There is corruption in that office. They are waiting for all the other constitutional office to be fixed. You have this golden opportunity to make sure that these are done so the democratic process or the elections are done properly.

The Police Force is not functioning properly. The Governments role is restricted to policy only and should not interfere in the operations of the Police Force. The Government does not interfere in the operational of the Police force. If the Prime Minister gets these basic things right then he will only have to look at just a few issues such as unemployment and 3.5 per cent population growth rate, Unemployment is getting worse.

The whole of West Sepik down to Sepik Plains and on to Markham Valley: all this today should be the Oil Palm Estates of Papua New Guinea like what West New Britain is doing.

27/03

That is where 30 thousand people can be employed and empowered. Energise the Governor of Oro, energise the Governor of Sandaun and energise the Governor of East Sepik. You got men here today who can help you run this country. Men who you can energise them in their provinces to get the economy moving. Use them and work with them; they are elected by the people and they are waiting. They have given you the support today to demonstrate that they are prepared to work with you.

My appeal to you as senior brother, use all of them, use the best men you have around you and make them work for you and the country will change. God bless you and thank you very much all of you for giving your endorsement to this young man to become our Prime Minister. Let us all support him and make this country become great.

Mr GINSON SAONU (Morobe) - Thankyou speaker I also would like to join the honourable members of this Honourable House to say thank you. I congratulate the Member for Tari Poro and the new Prime Minister-elect for Papua New Guinea today.

On behalf of my family, the people of Morobe and the Pangu Pati supporters around the country. Before I proceed, I would like to thank the former Prime Minister for the work he did at my province as well as other provinces with in the country.

Some work has progressed and some hasn't and I have raised many complaints not for the good of me but for people of Morobe and country as a whole. Morobe Province is an integral and the central hub of Papua New Guinea. Do not follow the footsteps of previous governments and be defined; you must listen, look after the hub and it will generate more revenue for this country.

The change of leadership is not to change the bad government of Peter O'Neill and install good government of James Marape. The change of leadership is for the future generation of this country. This country should be a donor country one day instead seeking for donor funds from other countries.

PNG is well blessed with resources that other countries who do not have. We have for a long time disregarded the development of these resources. Former Prime Ministers have tried their best to no avail. There have been some progress but we need to further strengthen the progress. The future government and leadership must be better than the previous governments and must keep the people in mind.

The change of Prime Ministership is not for the benefit of any political party but this change has occurred for the good of the country. I like to say thank you to former Pangu Pati Leader, Hononurable Sam Basil.

28/03

He led the Pangu Pati in the Morobe Province during the 2017 National Elections did really well. The Pangu Pti is the party that brought Independence to this country. The founding father led this party and brought independence to the country. The two Prime

Ministers out from this party were the Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare and Sir Rabbie Namaliu. Today, we have the third Prime Minister from the Pangu Pati and I would like to thank all the Members of Parliament for your support.

(Members clapping)

Mr GINSON SAUNU – Whether you acknowledge or not the Pangu Pati has set the benchmark in our country. The ball is in his court now to realise what the dreams and aspirations of our founding fathers were when they achieved independence under the Pangu Pati banner. They had only the people in their thoughts when they got independence.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased with many things that the Prime Minister has mentioned. We achieved political independence under Pangi Pati so it is only proper and right that we also achieve economic independence under the Pangu Pati banner. We do not have to work hard to achieve it, we only have to manage our resources in order to achieve economic independence.

Mr Speaker, we must have bigger dreams for our country. We must follow the rules and respect the system that is in place. Whatever that is wrong must be made right and encourage fair distribution to all our people. The country must not see us leaders as trouble makers. They have seen us as trouble makers but today we have erased that opinion from them.

Mr Prime Minister, you will maintain that hope and assure our people of a better future. We have to build a better future for our people. You must firstly, look at taking care of our provincial governments. You are not god to see all problems in our 21 provinces. We the provincial governors are here for you. We are the little prime ministers to assist you in your endeavours of a better country.

Mr Prime Minister, you must give us financial autonomy for our provinces. You must not waste time rather act on it immediately. This is so that when your time ends, you can be rest assured that the country would have moved steps ahead in your time as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. Let us give comfort to this country so that the future will be bright. If you neglect the provincial governments than when you look back at your Prime Ministership, you would realise that you had wasted time in Waigani and the people still suffer.

Mr Speaker, in my province we said get back Morobe but now in the country, we say take back Papua New Guinea. I encourage and urge you to take back Papua New Guinea. I would like to thank the five Pangu Pati leaders who stood with me when everybody left.

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I remained because because Pangu Pati was the political identity of my province, Morobe Province. When Honourable James Marape and other PNC Party members left and joined Pangu Party, I was overwhelmed and today I am thrilled to mention that a member of Pangu Party has been elected the Prime Minister of this nation, Honourable James Marape.

Thank you to all Honourable Members for your support.

Motion – That the question be now put – proposed.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable members although we have proposed a Question to be put, many other Members still want to speak on this event.

I will allow two Members to speak.

Mr CHARLIE BENAJAMIN (Manus) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am grateful that you have acknowledged my presence as your Governor.

On behalf of myself, my family and my people of Manus Province, I congratulate you, Honourable James Marape, Member for Tari-Pori on your election as the eighth Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

I also acknowledge the former Prime Minister Honourable Peter O'Neill for his service to the country and to my people as well.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister was elected as a result of the outcry from our people calling for a change in leadership. If you had gone through the social media, you would notice that this was the change the people wanted. This resulted in the recent movements within the political parties where many leaders shifted between camps to bring about this change.

Mr Speaker, lest the Prime Minister forgets, it was a divine intervention. God has appointed him, because he notices the heart. We all may want to become the Prime Minister but God sees our hearts. If you have the wisdom, the knowledge, the understanding and the charisma that holds together all Members of this Parliament. That is the reason why you have received been voted by almost all Members of Parliament today. The Opposition had to vote another nominee because they had a candidate but you will agree that almost every one voted you.

You were the unifying factor that our people wanted. As the unifying factor, you must continue that role, the journey may be tough but the road to recovery must start and that is our people wishes.

On that note, we have spent some time with our Leaders at Laguna Hotel. I acknowledge their contribution and the positive values they have. The Prime Minister must notice that everyone supports him and this is a critical time where he needs all men of talent to work together especially the public servants. It is time to utilise everyone in our country.

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It is time where our country needs all abled leaders, the public servants and everybody else to work together for the good and betterment of Papua New Guinea. It is time when you need to recognise each and every one and make use of them.

You will realise that the grand coalition is in place but I ask you recognise good leaders in the Opposition benches and make use of them in your ministries. It is for the good of the country.

Mr Prime Minister, I will not drag on but it was a privilege on behalf of my people of Manus to shake your hands. We the Governors would like to have consultation with all that you would like to carryout in our provinces. We must work together including the ministers and that is all we ask. On one hand you give us powers but on the other you hold us back so how do you expect us to deliver to our people. You must change those laws to empower the provincial governments to collect their taxes too so that we can be able to contribute to the national purse and at the same time help our people.

I am happy with your speech that touched on many points that had many of us following you. We now would like to see you implement those things. We need our resource laws to be changed so that our people receive the full benefits and the blessings that were given by God our creator. I think I have said what I needed to say.

Once more on behalf of my family and my people of Manus, I wish you every success when you lead us into the future with God's Blessing. Thank you.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA (Mt Hagen) – On behalf of my people of Mt Hagen, I would like to congratulate the three term Member for Tari-Pori and the Eight Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Honourable James Marape in your nomination.

Mr Speaker, I would like to talk about two memorable moments that I have of this young Prime Minister of our country. Firstly, I remember this young man coming out from winning his seat when he was introduced to me by the late Anderson Aigiru.

I must say that after thirty minutes of listening to his submission about why he had his case against another leader from his area, I thought I had come out from a session with a brilliant lawyer even though he wasn't one.

Mr Speaker, the second occasion was when the founding father of our nation, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare was the Prime Minister. He did not worry about the quorum of Parliament because he believed in the cause that he fought for. He ended thumping the table very hard when he vocally spoke out about the creation of Hela Province. He fought for his people passionately.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister that I know comes from a God fearing family. His father worked for God and that is the source of blessing that he and his family have received. His wife is a God fearing person and he comes from a very stable family and that is the foundation of his success.

May I remind the Prime Minister that this office that he has assumed has its challenges and temptations.

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I remain confident however, that our Prime Minister because of his very solid ground in the Christian faith and his work ethics and family background, he will be able to do the right thing for our country.

Mr Speaker, our Prime Minister is a third-term Member of Parliament and he has served as a senior member of Cabinet, firstly as the Somare-led government and then in the O'Neill-led government. He has been at the head table and he had direct exposure to the very problems our people are facing and he is well informed to be able to lead this country forward and take over from our former Prime Minister, the Member for Ialibu-Pangia, Honourable Peter O'Neill

Mr Speaker, when the Prime Minister was a Minister and Member of Parliament, during the negotiations of the PNG LNG Project, on many occasions he forgot that he was the Minister for State and took his hat off and he personally fought for his people. Regrettably as we all know a lot of the commitments that the government made for our people including the much-talked about 4.2 per cent equity for our people, the UBSA

commitments, the LBSA commitments and other impact projects remained unfulfilled. I suppose it only takes a son of Hela to be in charge so that we can deliver those long outstanding commitments to our people. The time has come.

Mr Speaker, I am proud as someone who has known him for a long while to be able to be here before him and to witness his ascendance into the highest office in our country. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will not let us down.

Mr Speaker, our Prime Minister has now assumed office at a time when our country is at the cross roads. We have signed the Papua LNG Project which we hope will deliver better results for our people. We have a lot of problems that need to be resolved. But, I think that with the calibre of people around him our Prime Minister will not go wrong. If you look around, we have former prime ministers, starting from this corner with Sir Mekere Morauta, Sir Julius Chan, Honourable Paias Wingti, and many governors, many former deputy prime ministers of our country, many experienced and older Ministers who are there for him to approach whenever he needs advice. And of course he has the services of our former Prime Minister and his brother the Honourable Peter O'Neill who still has a lot to contribute and I am sure our Prime Minister will be able to consult him regularly when he needs to.

Mr Speaker, when I look around, I can't see our Prime Minister going wrong, I can't see this country going wrong, we have a bright future.

Mr Speaker, finally, may I remind our Prime Minister that he is a son of a god-fearing man and what is needed now is God – direction and guidance from God. For a country of more than eight million people with more than 700 different languages. You take the example of countries in Europe, for instance England has one language and one custom, France has one language and one custom, Germany has one language and one custom. These are countries which are relatively easy to manage, but Papua New Guinea if you go by those standards, happens to be one of the most difficult countries to be governed. We have more than 700 little different countries, if you are to take the example of those countries I have mentioned in Europe. We have a country of more than 700 different languages and cultures, a very complex and inherently a very difficult country to manage.

I do know that our Prime Minister has the ability and the experience and the people around him to see our country move forthwith.

May God bless our country, may God bless our Prime Minister and may God bless our former Prime Minister. Peter O'Neill. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – proposed

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Mr SPEAKER – The Chair will allow only one speaker followed by the Question to be put.

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU (South Bougainville) – Mr Speaker, thank you for recognising the people of the rising of the sun. We have a new sun that has risen for our country. And you are right by recognising the rising of the sun to glow in this Parliament because our new Prime Minister has been elected.

Before I deliver my congratulatory remarks, I want to firstly, pay tribute to our outgoing Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O’Neill, on behalf of the people of South Bougainville and Bougainville for all the commitments that he has made for Bougainville through his term as the Prime Minister of this country. I humbly thank your family for supporting you in this role in serving and representing the people of this country in their welfare. Honourable Peter O’Neill, I want you to know that we the people of Bougainville will treasure you in our hearts for what you have done in your term as the Prime Minister of this country. It does not matter that some of the commitments made were not fulfilled, we humbly understand you are faced with other commitments in other parts of the country. with natural resources where have you assisted us one way or another. I thank you and I wish you all the best in continuing to serve the people of Ialibu-Pangia. I am sure that you will be available to give advice to our new Prime Minister and also with the assistance from other former Prime Ministers as well. Some of them are present in this House and we are privileged to serve under you all.

To our new Eight Prime Minister of PNG, son of Hela, I congratulate the people of Hela for their son. The people from Hela and Southern Highlands were the first to migrate to plantations some years back to most of the Coastal areas especially in the New Guinea Islands, to work as plantation workers. And I also thank them for their contribution of the nation building by working as labourers. From their contribution the country benefited a lot and today we have witnessed a history in making for that were by a son from Hela has become the Prime Minister and I humbly bow my head and I say thank you to the people of Hela for producing such a son, Right Honourable James Marape to be the Eight Prime Minister of PNG.

I also congratulate all the Members of this Tenth Parliament for us all to stand together in supporting him. It's not easy and I know the job will be much easier if we all agree to give him the direction and guidance in his leadership.

Bougainville is five months away from its Referendum, our new Prime Minister I apologise for burdening you with this load in your hands again. You have heart for the people of Bougainville and I know you have families in Bougainville also and so you won't ignore Bougainville. It's only five months left before the Referendum and we have a major need and it's still there.

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The Bougainville Referendum Commission needs funding to carry out its duties so as to be on target with the date that we have set, which is October 12, 2019.

This is one of the issues that is hanging in our minds and we as a Parliament own this issue and therefore must look into it. I know you will make some changes in your Government but please whoever you choose to oversee the affairs of Bougainville, I wish him to be a person who will work with you to make sure you the issue of our referendum is realised.

I thank all the Members from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in this Parliament today. I have seen today, that for the first time we came together to support you. We have carried you on our shoulders, honourable Prime Minister, and we know that you will visit Bougainville soon after you formerly assume your new role.

You will meet the people and the leaders of Bougainville, through the ABG and discuss some issues that the ABG has that we are struggling with in Bougainville. Thank you all for bearing with me and my God bless all of you.

Finally I want to say thank you to the family of the Prime Minister-elect for releasing him to take on yet, another bigger role in your political career. I appeal to the Ministers who you will choose in your Cabinet to serve you well as most times we have seen that the Prime minister takes on most criticisms and the ministers are ignorant or do not support the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, thank you that today is a historical moment in our lives as members, many of us are new to have witnessed the shift in powers of Prime Ministership. On behalf of my family and the people of South Bougainville, I wish to congratulate you on your election as the Prime Minister of this country and may God's blessing be upon you always.

Motion –That the question be put –agreed to

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori- Prime Minister) – firstly before I move a motion, let me say thank you for all the kind words and congratulatory remarks. I would ask the Clerk to have to print a copy of the *Hansard* for all the statements that were made today and for other statements or conversations that may come later on. I know Members of Parliament still intend to stand up and we will still have statements as we resume Parliament next time.

But in this instance, I propose that Parliament at its rising adjourn to Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2pm.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by Mr James Marape) agreed to –

That the Parliament at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 25 June at 2p.m.

Motion –The Parliament do now adjourn –agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parliament adjourned at 2:45 p.m.