

FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 3 September 2019

DRAFT HANSARD

Subject:

Page No.:

PREMATURE ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT SITTING – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER	1
DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER- Mr JOHN TEKWIE – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER	2
PETITIONS	3
Gender-Based Violence.....	3
QUESTIONS	4
LLG Councilors Allowance Payment Update	4
Address Allegations Raised in NBC Report	6
Contingency Plan for Reduced Oil Palm Production.....	8
Ramu Nickel – Toxic Waste Spill	13
Supplementary Question	14
Rai-Coast Affected by Ramu Nickel Spill	14
Appoint Magistrate – Bwagoia, Misima Island	14
Funding for School Science Lab.....	16
West Papua Issue	17
Supplementary Questions.....	18
Announce Contingency Plan	18
MOTION BY LEAVE	20
SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY – ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS	20
ADJOURNMENT.....	22

FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 3 September 2019

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Jeffery Pesab Komal**) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m.

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and invited the Member for North Bougainville, **Honourable William Nakin**, to say Prayers:

God our Father, you are holy indeed and the fountain of all holiness. The Creator of all things, seen and unseen. We praise and glorify you. Lord, we come before your holy throne and acknowledge our sinfulness. And we ask you to have mercy on us in our shortfalls, have mercy on us. We thank you for having created us and choosing us to represent your people in this honourable House. Empower us with your Holy Spirit, give us the wisdom, knowledge and understanding to meaningfully and honestly serve your people, our people in this honourable House. Lord, bless our Prime Minister, his Deputy, the Opposition Leader and his Deputy and the Speaker of Parliament. Give them the grace and the strength to continue to find ways to bring this country forward. Bless all the Members of Parliament who are here today and those that are not with us. Bless our country Papua New Guinea and the people of Papua New Guinea. Lord to affirm our faithfulness and trusts in you we all join together and say the prayer which our Lord Jesus taught the disciples.

PREMATURE ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT SITTING – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, as you are aware, last week Friday's Parliament Sitting was prematurely adjourned due to technical faults in the audio broadcasting systems.

There are 138 microphones in the National Parliament Chambers connected to nine machines that captures, processes and transmits audio for the earpieces, house monitors and recording of the daily *Hansard*.

As a result of power surges last week, certain components in two of these machines were damaged. Our Parliamentary Services technicians replaced some of these components with spares. However, only one of these two machines could be repaired while the other one still has faulty components. Our technicians are still working on replacing these components and repairing the machine.

02/05

In the interim, microphones have been set up so that, audio for any Member who speaks can be captured, through the audio broadcasting system for our daily *Hansard*. For audio transmitted, to the earpieces and house monitors, very few Members who speak may not sound louder than others, but they can still be heard.

I would like to apologize for the inconvenience, that we may have been experienced and thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thank you.

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER- Mr JOHN TEKWIE–
STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament, of the Death of Mr John Tekwie on 29 July of, 2019, a former Member for West Sepik Provincial Seat.

He was first elected to the Fifth National Parliament, from 1992 to 1997 and re-elected for the same seat, to the Sixth National Parliament, from 1997 to 2002.

During those terms as Member of Parliament, he had served as Shadow Minister for Housing and Lands, Vice Minister for Finance & Physical Planning between 1994 and 1995

He became Governor of West Sepik Province following the Provincial Governments reforms in 1995. He also was a Minister for Trade and Industry on 3 November, 2000, Member of the *Standing Orders* Committee from April to November 2000. Member of Gas and Energy Development Committee from June to November 2000. Minister for Civil

Aviation in a Cabinet re-shuffle on 17 of May, 2001. The commissioning from Cabinet on 19 October, 2001.

He also founded and became Leader of Peoples Indigenous Liberation Movement. Joined Advanced Papua New Guinea Party in June, 1999 until his merging with Peoples Democratic Party on 29 April, of 2001, then formed the Melanesian Peoples Party in early 2002.

As a mark of respect, to the memory of the honourable gentleman, I invite all honourable Members to rise from their places.

(All Members stood in their places)

I thank the Parliament.

03/05

PETITIONS

Gender-Based Violence

The Honourable Deputy Speaker and Members of the National Parliament assembled here today.

The humble petition of the Human Rights Defender Association of PNG and the Social Services Division of NCDC brings to Parliament's attention that gender-based violence is endemic and pandemic in Papua New Guinea. Evidence shows that two out of every three women experience violence during the term of their life compared to the global statistics of one out of every three women. It is an alarming rate and our country has the highest statistics on gender-based violence in the Pacific Region.

We respectfully pray:

(1) That, there must not be any compensation paid to women and children who are tortured and murdered or killed.

(2) That, Police make immediate arrest and prosecute perpetrators.

(3) That, compensation should not be seen as a substitute for justice.

(4) That, the Government legislate for the imposition of tougher penalties on perpetrators or murderers.

(5) That, a National Human Rights Commission be enacted and established to respond to all human rights issues in order to co-ordinate, and to work towards managing these issues in our country today.

(6) That, Human Rights Defenders Association of Papua New Guinea to have a proper office, equipped with personnel and funded to address human rights issues affecting people.

(7) That, Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary systems be strengthened such as the Family Sexual Violence Units that are currently outside the police structure. As a result, it had been a continuous challenge when responding to gender-based violence with limited or no resource and inadequate funding.

(8) That, a National Gender-Based Violence Secretariat Office be established and supported for coordinating a national response to gender-based violence, and

(9) That, all Provincial Governments establish their Provincial Gender-Based Violence Secretariat to co-ordinate and work with all stakeholders in responding to gender-based violence in accordance with NEC Decision No.151/2013.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray,

That, we need to rise up and address this issue seriously and make drastic changes, in order to take back PNG from ills in society and make our country a better and safer place for women and children.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound will every pray.

Petition received and read

QUESTIONS

LLG Councilors Allowance Payment Update

Mr KONI IGUAN – My question is directed to the Minister for Finance and I would like the Minister for Inter-Government Relations to take note.

I raised a question some time back. It was before the councilors rose for the LLG Elections and this relates to the allowances for councilors.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the response I received at that time was that the Councilors will be paid before going to elections.

And my question to the Minister is;

(1) Can the Minister inform Parliament that all the Councilors have received their allowances before the elections?

(2) Can the Minister also inform this House and the councilors out there, if they are going to get their allowances?

I want to let the Minister know that some councilors from my electorate have served the whole five-year term without getting paid. They bombarded me with these questions over the weekend. Some have lost their positions and are yet to be paid.

04/05

It's hard for them to push for their allowances. Therefore, I ask the Minister if he can inform this House and for the benefit of those councilors out there still waiting for their allowances.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and I thank the good Member for Markham for this very important question in relation to very important people, our local ward councilors. And as you reminded us, you raised this previously on this Floor of Parliament.

Just to inform the House that the appropriation for councilors allowance sit with the Department of Inter-Government Relation and so we deal through them in relation to this matter. And as a Member of Parliament representing an electorate, I get a lot of these question as well. I'm sure many of us do, Mr Deputy Speaker.

In terms of communication with the Inter Government Relation Minister and Secretary I was informed sometimes ago that the allowances have been paid up to June in full. No doubt there will be some discrepancies or certain councilors may not have been fully paid, as is sometimes the case.

In terms of your district, through you Mr Deputy Speaker, the Member can bring some of those details to me; but as far as I am aware the warrant, the appropriation, and the cash was received by the Department of Inter Government Relation and those payment have been made up to June.

Of course, there'll be some outstanding in relation to July that we have to deal with. For those councilors that lost the election, of course, we'll do our best to make sure that they

receive those entitlements in full. And we take on board and welcome the new councilors that have come through the Local Level Government election and of course the presidents as well.

So, if there is any discrepancies Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask the Member to bring them to me and we'll do our best to make sure our councilors are looked after.

Thank you.

Mr Pila Niningi – Point of Order! In relation to Member's questions, as far as our records are concerned in addition to the Minister, we have paid in full. But, in the event that any of our councilors haven't received payment, they can be referred to us. But our records show that we have paid them in full, about K400 to each council member.

In relation to the K10 000.00 which was promised to each council ward there was no funds so we haven't paid. But, as far as the council allowances are concerned, we have paid them in full. As our Finance Minister has indicated, if they have not received any allowances please bring it to us but, on the 19 June, we have paid them all.

Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Minister, I believe our good Finance Minister has answered the question so maybe at a later time if you want to explain a little bit further that will be fine.

Address Allegations Raised in NBC Report

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

My questions are directed to the Minister for Communication, Information Technology, and Energy. Minister a damning report seriously implicating the board and the management of the National Broadcasting Corporation has been brought to your attention after your appointment as Minister.

Honorable Minister, the contents of the report are not just mere allegations of; misconduct, misuse, misappropriation, or abuse. It actually contains a trail of material information supporting the claims. The Government has a zero tolerance on corruption and any instances of such must be addressed swiftly.

So, my questions are;

(1). Are you aware of this report?

05/05

(2) If you are then, what are you going to do?

The term of the NBC Board has expired on 14 March 2019, interestingly, the chairman went about and got himself reappointed without the rest of the board members.

(3) If that is that case, then how can he be the chairman without the board and driving around in a 24 -hour vehicle at the expense of the NBC since 2017, which he is not entitled to?

Mr Speaker, a massive NBC land between 5 and 6 mile was under-valued and sold to a foreign company.

(4) Can the Minister confirm or deny if this transaction was aborted after the Prime Minister's Office intervened two months ago?

Mr Deputy Speaker, Bougainville will enter into Referendum and I am not happy that NBC is not broadcasting throughout Bougainville. In my South Bougainville, we hardly hear broadcasting by NBC.

I have openly raised this issue numerous times but nothing has been about it.

(5) Does the Minister have any plans to restore it so we can receive NBC broad casting again especially during the Referendum?

Mr RAINBO PAITA – I thank the Member for South Bougainville for his questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to the NBC Board, I can admit that there have been some allegations brought forward to my attention as Minister responsible. Some have been just mere allegations but some are very serious allegations. I can confirm that the position of the chairman has expired and we have made submissions to Cabinet.

However, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, I am sure that you may all have seen that all SOEs including NBC, Telikom, PNG Power and other state entities will be advertised and competent people will be brought on board. The usual practice of us appointing cronies under the direction of our Prime Minister will no longer be the practice. He has advised us to advertise the position and all competent people must apply in order for us to select the best candidate.

In relation to these allegations, I have asked KTH as well as my department to ensure that those allegations have evidence to support them.

With regard to the awareness, I am aware of these allegations and I have written to the KTH Board, the NBC Board and EM TV Board asking for all positions not to be reappointed awaiting those restructures that we are doing under the KTH and the direction of the Cabinet.

06/05

I don't think chairman has the power to reappoint himself under any circumstance that is the prerogative of NEC.

On the sale of 5 and 6-mile land, I think there has been some considerable land that belongs to the State, this not isolated issue that belong to the State has been sold without proper consultation including the one under NBC.

Once this allegation was brought forward, the Office of the Prime Minister has written to my office and we have said for those things to be on hold, awaiting further investigation. Some these issues happened previously in the other terms and some of these are current issues that we trying to address now.

So, that particular land that you are referring to is an issue we are trying to address. We have asked the Department with the consultation with Lands Department so that we identify what actually happens and decide on that issue.

In terms of NBC coverage on the referendum in Bougainville, Mr Deputy Opposition Leader will assure you now that I will direct NBC, EMTV, and FM100 to ensure that we get the correct coverage leading up to the referendum and that will be effected within a week.

And this is my short answer but I will write a detail response to the question that you raised and I said thank you for asking the first question of my many questions to come you 've been the first as I said surely not forget you.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Contingency Plan for Reduced Oil Palm Production

Mr NAKIKUS KONGA – Thank you, Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Commerce Trade and Industry to take note and also the Honorable Prime Minister.

On behalf of the people of East New Britain, I would like to direct these questions to respective Ministers.

Before I proceed let me outline a number of issues that has prompted me and my people to come before this Honourable House to raise some of the issues surrounding oil palm in

East New Britain. But generally, in other parts of Papua New Guinea where oil palm is grown and has contributed to the livelihood of those who are involved and engage fully through this industry.

Mr Speaker, firstly oil palm is an emerging crop in East New Britain after it was introduced in the province to counteract significant decline in the prices of our major cash crop like cocoa and copra in the early 1908's.

Under the alternate crop policy oil palm was introduced to create buffer and address the economic shock created by price decline which affected my people whose life was dependable entirely on cocoa and copra.

While a lot has been said about oil palm, especially the issues relating to the environment and the soil degradation. We should all accept the fact that oil palm has also significantly improve the sustainability to construction of socio-economic infrastructure enabling accessibility to all government services, especially in the remotest part of East New Britain as evident in other oil palm growing areas of our country.

I would like the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Finance and Treasury, Foreign Affairs and Trade to also take note.

It has also been reported after high speculation in the world market that there will be a major reduction in imports by major economies around the world of oil palm and its associate products.

This has been a result of stringent measures by the world organization which has required a strict compliance as per economic social and governance standards and round table sustainable palm oil standards as its principle criteria.

Mr Speaker, I have been reliably advised that some of the oil palm companies in Papua New Guinea have been producing and exporting even without compliance to these major international requirements and as a results exports to these markets significantly reduce.

07/05

I have also been advised that the European Union which makes up nearly 70 per cent of our Oil Palm destination has vowed to strictly adhere to the economics, social and government standards and round table on sustainable palm oil and its principle requirements which may result in 20 per cent reduction.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this would mean that Oil Palm Companies that operate in Papua New Guinea who do not adhere to the international requirements of sustainable Oil Palm

production will be greatly affected. This will certainly result in major reduction in income of families and those who are engaged in this industry across Papua New Guinea and my province, East New Britain.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my series of questions are as follows:

(1) Does the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock have a strategy designed to address these imminent and inevitable negative consequences of this issue?

(2) What is your strategy, if there is any, to redirect your emphasis to further rehabilitating other crops especially cash crops such as cocoa, copra, coffee and others which I believe over 80 per cent of the population in this country rely on?

Thank you, Mr Speaker

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me answer the Governor of East New Britain's question in my capacity as the care-taking Agriculture Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, these are very important and good questions that are of core to some of the issues that is pertinent to our Government.

Our views towards agriculture is so simple, that is where 80 per cent of our people are engaged in and traditionally 100 per cent of our citizens have found sustenance in their livelihood thus far. Our people are continually engaged in agriculture and we intend to embark with that sector in a very big way going forward in our 2020 Budget, where we will indicate such a substantial injection of resources into the allocation for the agriculture sector so that our citizens and lower levels of government including the provincial governments become greater participants in that sector of the economy.

I have note with interest that the latest trend emerging in the Oil Palm Sector. Those views are yet to be fully affirmed but the Oil Palm Sector has emerged as the first sector and leading agricultural export commodity in our country at this very moment and our Government will stand to continue support in this sector so that sector remains at its current production level if not improve into the future.

We note that provinces like East New Britain, East Sepik and other provinces are all moving into Oil Palm and we would like to encourage partnership with the provincial governments and the investors to ensure that Oil Palm continues to receive its fair share of the expansion kina that we will put as an allocation in our subsequent budgets going forward.

So, our strategy in Oil Palm is very simple, without indicating too much of how the external market will be but the demand for our natural produces will remain so we will not be damped with the thought that there is a possibility that there is a decrease in Oil Palm produce and its consumption in the global market.

08/05

We will encourage different provincial governments to also venture into producing oil palm, especially in many of our grassland areas to replace the grass with better economic crops. Talking about diversification also, whilst oil palm is subject of the discussion, I would like to encourage the provincial governments, districts and our local level governments to be on the lookout in partnering genuine foreign investors who can contribute in upscale in big capital injections in this sector and also link them into local landowner based agricultural businesses so that partnering locals can still own the majority of our land. As they are contributing land as equity they can become equity partners in those agricultural projects.

Our policy which is soon going to be announced on the eve of independence will detail where we are looking into and one of that will clearly be greater partnership with provincial governments and local landowners in the area of agricultural entrepreneurship.

We are looking at pointing our citizens towards coffee, cocoa, copra, vanilla, cardamom and also edible agriculture produces that can be supplied to our local market as well as our potential overseas markets.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our policy is simple and let me assure all the governors of this Parliament that we want provincial governments to become self-sustaining economies.

We are directing this country to agriculture, sustainable logging, sustainable fisheries as well as tourism. These are the areas we want the provincial governments to capitalise. They can pick out an area in their particular province to be designated as a specialised economic zone.

The National Government has allocated about 17 spots in the country in across different provinces to be designated as specialised economic zones. So, we urge provincial governments and local landowners to be engaged in businesses primarily in agriculture.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as I look to the future, I see the world around us. We live in the middle of Asia-Pacific region and there is a huge sea surrounding us. Other Pacific Island nations around us have smaller land mass compared to our country, therefore, PNG has the

potential to supply food to all the Pacific Islands. In the face of growing adversities like climate change and scarcity in land mass, food scarcity will be an issue in the future.

Mr Speaker, let's consider greater Asia where there is a population of say 4 billion people and right next door to us is the nation of Philippines with 110 million people in a land mass that is two-thirds the size of our country. They have 300 000 square kilometres of land and we have 462 000 square kilometres of land, but our country has a population of just under 10 million people. We can easily be a food basket to the Asia-Pacific region where demand for food and agriculture produce will increase into the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are focusing seriously on agriculture and we will be investing substantial amounts in agricultural infrastructures. As I was speaking at the National Road Infrastructure launch, I basically indicated that the roads must go to where the coffee, copra, cocoa agriculture and economic activities are. These includes oil and gas and other mining activities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, coming back to the policy on agriculture to diversify instead of relying basically on one crop and the potential shrink in demand after exposure, the National Government is urging provincial governments to be engaged with genuine foreign investors who can come in with large-scale capital injection, not only for investing but to also assist in infrastructure development. These investors must also agree to partner with our landowners in equity arrangements and local landowners must also be willing to free up land as the equity contribution into the large-scale agricultural projects.

09/05

As for the local small-holder growers and other croppers, we will include that facility in the Budget next year, which will really support those farmers, growers, and plantation holders who are present in country and want to venture into agriculture. We'll be encouraging them to also go into that space.

So, we are giving serious thought to agricultural space, Mr Acting Speaker, and I encourage the 21 provincial governments, excluding NCDC, to give serious thought to agriculture and support our Government in achieving food sufficiency by 2025.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I've given signals to the Agriculture Department to work in programmes whereby in 2025 we can double production from where we are in the current threshold. And I'll be setting that pace for us to move into the mid-2020s with agriculture as a major income earner for our economy.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Ramu Nickel – Toxic Waste Spill

Mr PETER SAPIA –Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Mining Minister.

I asked this question to the Environment Minister last week and now I wish to ask the Mining Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Ramu Nickel is a big project located in my district. This mine has operated for over 10 years with no benefits going to my people over there. There are no roads, hospitals or schools despite the mine making huge sums of money from my district.

Mr Deputy Speaker, just last week, a large amount of toxic waste had spilled over into our waters and has polluted my people's fishing grounds where they fish to sustain themselves. Significant damage was done as a result of this spill.

Can the Minister advise the people whether this mine will be shut down or will it be allowed to continue operations?

Mr JOHNSON TUKE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the Member for Rai-Coast for his good question.

Mr Deputy Speaker, last week I visited the area after the spill occurred on 24 August. Under the *Mining Act*, I have the right to close down a mine if such incidents have cost the lives of mine employees. The spill occurred through the surge tank when the interlock system failed to work. This spilled through the pipe and because there was no gate it overspilled onto the sea bank creating a lot of environmental damage. I have a ministerial statement to present on this issue today but because of some minor corrections I will either present it tomorrow or on Thursday.

Mr Deputy Speaker, under the *Mining Act*, I have no right to shut down the mine. It has gone through already to the sea where it comes under the Minister for Environment. So, he has the right under *Environment Act 2000* where he can make his own decision.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

10/05

Supplementary Question

Rai-Coast Affected by Ramu Nickel Spill

Mr MICHAEL DUA –Mr Acting Speaker, this mining issue is not an issue to take lightly because it is affecting the environment and the lives of our people daily, while we are just thinking economically.

The ministers responsible have to really look into this matter, especially the Minister for Mining and the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. They have to send in the right expertise into Rai-Coast to investigate this matter, so the people can be aware of the situation because it is really affecting their livelihood.

We have to do the right thing because we represent the interest of our people in this Parliament. The people of Rai-Coast are at risk because of the environment and waters have been contaminated. Developers come and go while our people will be still suffering from these issues, even though a lot of money has been generated and are coming out from these mines. We have to take these issues into consideration and do something about them.

Thank you.

Mr JOHNSON TUKE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I did not get his supplementary question, however, it is in relation to the issue at hand.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when the toxic slurry had spilled over into the water, a lot of minerals were also deposited into the water.

Scientists from CEPA have conducted their investigations, so when the scientific reports are ready, the CEPA Minister and I can do a joint statement on this matter.

Appoint Magistrate – Bwagoia, Misima Island

Mr ISI HENRY LEONARD – Mr Acting Speaker, it is good that you still remember the people of Samarai-Murua.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney General. Before I ask my question, on behalf of my people of Samarai-Murua, particularly your people from Awaibi, I wish to congratulate you on your elevation to the position of Deputy Prime Minister.

With your inclusion I believe you will significantly contribute in getting back our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in September last year, the LLG President in my district facilitated the opening of the Misima Rural lock-up. It was actually witnessed by the officials from CS.

This facility includes single and married quarters as well as the facility for prisoners.

Since that facility was established it has never been used. The reason is simple; there is no resident magistrate on the island to preside over the cases. There is already a prosecutor on the island, but there is no magistrate. All the remandees have been referred to Alotau, but we cannot continue to do that when there is an existing facility on the ground.

11/05

My question is; can the Minister inform the Parliament whether a magistrate has been appointed to carry out magisterial duties on Misima Island?

If nothing has been done, please choose a person with experience and appoint them immediately. We need to see the presence of a law enforcement agency in my district because without that, it is portraying a very different image in my district.

Mr DAVIS STEVEN –Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Samarai -Murua for his question. This question relates to an important program initiated by the Government, especially under the leadership of former Prime Minister, where the efforts of the Law and Justice sector was focused towards the districts to complement the Government's drive to bring more services in our district throughout the country.

The rural lock-up program as administered by the CS is one such important move to bring the delivery of justice in our districts.

I want to start by admitting that there is an acute shortage of magistrates in our Magisterial Services today for many reasons but one of the primary reasons is the neglect over the years in terms of support in training and capacity building. But that is not to say that an effort is now being made and the issues in the magisterial services have been addressed with the support from our friends, especially the Australian Government.

In recent times, this Honourable House has endorsed the transformation program that is being pursued now by the magisterial services, and part of that program is to look at the training of our magistrates.

Coming back to the question on hand, in relation to the rural lock-up in Bwagaoia in Misima, we work as a sector so the Police Department was informed that the opening of the CS lock-up will coincide with the hosting of a magistrate - with an appropriate level - to the

District Court in Bwagaoia together with the presence of a police prosecutor to deal with issues there.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the main intention is to ensure that cases are dealt with in the district courts to avoid the congestion that is now taking place in our CS facilities throughout the country. So, the process did occur and the leader is aware that the reshuffles did occur in terms of the police, where prosecution is concerned. Unfortunately, in relation to the magistrates, the person appointed to take up that position was unable to take that particular appointment.

I can assure the leader and our people in Misima that the Chief Magistrate is looking into this matter.

12/05

Funding for School Science Lab

Mr RICHARD MASERE - Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Education. Let me on the outset congratulate him on his appointment as minister. I also thank the former Minister for his leadership during his time.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are in relation to a construction of a standard science lab that was supposed to be built for Popondetta Secondary School. Late last year, the tenders were advertised by the Department of Education and submissions came before the National Procurement Authority. Since then, we haven't heard anything from the Department of Education hence I am raising this point on the Floor today.

(1) Can the Minister inform me whether the funding for this project was included in the 2019 Budget, as the tender had already been advertised?

(2) Will the project be implemented this year or will it be carried over into the 2020 Budget?

(3) Can the Minister confirm whether he will honor the commitment made by the former Minister for Education and the Department of Education?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Ijivitari for his questions.

Before I respond, Mr Deputy Speaker, I have asked your Attendants several times to fix my audio earphones but to date nothing has been done so please can it be replaced whilst the entire system is been fixed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this program is basically to support and improve the quality and standard of science and mathematics learning in all schools throughout the country. Phase one started in 2017 in three schools; Waigani Christian school, Kuiwamgar High School in Mt. Hagen, and Boromiel Technical High School in Gumine.

In 2018, tenders for 15 schools were put out and because of the procurement process it took a while longer. The Department has the money to fund all the schools, including the Popondetta Secondary School. Several schools had their contracts signed last week and there are others that will be signed within the next couple of weeks.

So, it will start this year and obviously this will only target the new high schools and secondary schools. Those Members who have old high schools and secondary schools I believe you have your science laboratory in place so this program will be focusing on the new high schools and secondary schools throughout the country.

West Papua Issue

Mr ALLAN MARAT – Mr Deputy Speaker, my two questions are directed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, which are in relation to the West Papua issue that has risen again.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to preface my two questions. Before the Western and European Empire set foot in what we knew then as West Irian, now West Papua. That land belongs to the West Iranians who are Melanesians in blood, related mainly to the people of West and East Sepik and the Western provinces. There was no border there between West Irian and Papua New Guinea then. These people are also related to people throughout rest of Papua New Guinea.

The United Nations then organised some kind of mercy so-called free vote by the West Iranians, which since then has brought upon them - our Melanesian West Papuan relatives - human atrocities, one after another. And today, the West Papua issue has flared up again.

13/05

My questions are:

(1) What is our National Government's response to the current flare-up in West Papua in terms of the five main models in foreign policy analysis?

(2) In terms of the overall aim of political freedom of our Melanesian West Papua brothers, what is Papua New Guinea's current policy with our relationship with Indonesia?

Mr SOROI EOE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Rabaul for his questions.

West Papua is a very important and sensitive issue. Papua New Guinea's official position in terms of West Papua is that it is an internal Indonesian issue. This has been our stand since independence. It does not matter how each and every one of us may feel in so far as what has been happening on the other side.

This issue is a human rights issue although some forums like the recent Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu have addressed it. Prior to that it was raised in Suva a week earlier where foreign ministers did address the issue. Papua New Guinea recognises that West Papua is an internal Indonesian matter and more of a human rights concern.

An important issue that was raised was to request the Human Rights Commission to move into West Papua to understand and assess what is happening out there and make a report to the Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in Vanuatu in July 2020.

It is a sad situation but the issue has been in the public arena for a very long time. Vanuatu has taken their stand but Papua New Guinea has to be very careful as to how we address the issue because of the fact that we share a common border. Our responsibility firstly is for our own people. How we address this issue determines our future in the region.

In terms of the issue of freedom - and I think that is where the main concern is - it will be proper if this matter is addressed through the Human Rights Commission by the United Nations. This is where we can seek help in terms of how we address this very important issue in so far as West Papua is concerned.

14/05

Supplementary Questions Announce Contingency Plan

Mr GARRY JUFFA– Mr Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, I think the Minister should withdraw his comment that it doesn't matter what we feel here.

These are Melanesian people and are Pacific Islanders but we continue to be ignorant.

(1) Can the Minister explain what contingency plan his department has taken in relation to possible spillover effects from the current uprising that is taking place now in West Papua, where nine of our Melanesian and Pacific people have been shot dead?

(2) Has the Minister received the report about what is happening on the border?

(3) What is the position of his ministry and the government in regards to this?

Mr SOROI EOE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Honourable Governor for the very important intervention.

I think the point is clear regardless of how we feel as individuals. The position of the government is that it is an internal matter between Indonesia and West Papua. Until and unless this issue is addressed properly in the international forum, then we can decide to see where we can place our own position in this important issue.

But as far as what is going on, yes, individually we feel for these people because they are our brothers but officially our position is as such as there no way we can change that position.

Thankyou Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! The Minister has not answered my question on whether his ministry has a contingency plan to address possible spillover effects from West Papua into Papua New Guinea, as a result of the current uprising that is ongoing right now.

Mr SOROI EOE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I think this is an issue that requires inter-disciplinary approach. It's not only Foreign Affairs, it is Defense, Police and everybody who is part and parcel of the government to how we prepare for possible spillover of our people coming across.

As far as Foreign Affairs is concerned, our position is to register this issue in the International Organization, which addresses this issue.

Thankyou Mr Deputy Speaker.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen – Minister for Communication and Energy) – I ask leave of the Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY – ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS –

Motion (by Mr **Rainbo Paita**) – agreed to –

That:

(1) This Parliament establishes a Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.

(2) The Committee shall consist of eight members appointed by Parliament and the quorum of the Committee shall be three.

(3) That the members of the Committee shall be Mr Garry Juffa as Chairman, Mr William Nakin as Deputy Chairman, members of the committee being Mr William Powi, Mr Philip Undialu, Mr Robert Agarobe, Sir Peter Ipatas, Mr Peter Numu and Mr Richard Masere.

(4) The Committee

(a) shall have responsibility for matters relating to the Public Service reform gallery

(b) shall deliberate on matters referred to the Committee; and

(c) Shall investigate and report to the Parliament on matters the Committee considers appropriate.

(5) The Committee has power to appoint sub-committees consisting of two or more of its members and refer to such sub-committees any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider.

15/05

(6) The Committee has power to send for an examine persons, papers and records, to move from place to place and to transact business in public or private sessions and to act during recess.

(7) The Chairman of the Committee, or in his absence, a Member of the Committee, may represent the Committee on appropriate National Executive Council Ministerial Committee providing liaison between the Parliament and the Executive in matters relating to public service and public sector reform generally.

(8) A Member of the Committee may, with approval of the Speaker, represent Papua New Guinea at international or regional forums.

(9) Research, survey and engage public service for enhancement, review performance of Public Service and make findings for recommendation to the Minister for Public Service, the National Executive Council and the National Parliament.

(10) Any other finding that will contribute towards improvement of public service performance and productivity.

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen-Minister for Communication and Energy) – Mr Deputy Speaker, my other motion was that as we admitted on Friday, we have issues around the recording and audio system within the Chamber itself as highlighted by the Minister for Education. As such, I made a statement on Friday that the Parliament had in its possession a Report done by the UNDP, in consultation with the New Zealand Parliament Services as well. That Report was done in July, 2018, and I think there is a misconception on the amount we gave, whether it was the amount of just the facility within the Chamber itself.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you are aware, the Report covered a lot of issues especially in the space of Information Technology Communication structure within the Parliament itself and not just within the Chamber.

So, for the benefit of our Members, the system that we are using is outdated by 30 years. They have not been fixed in the last 30 years and the Report highlighted some issues in terms of the Information Technology Communication, footage cameras and all the other issues just on the backbone of Information Technology Communication itself. Those issues caused some of the delays we had on Friday and even into today as we have a heat up in the system and we are forced to sit through Question Time.

I think the Chair and the Clerk are aware that we are trying to rectify that issue quickly so that we can have the session going forward. But we might face the same problem in the near future that is why I informed Cabinet that we must support the Parliament by finding some money to address the issues. This is one of the important issues that we need to address and I am just putting it on the Floor

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, the Leader of Government seems to be engaging himself in dealing with parliamentary matters. Parliament is headed by the Speaker with its own Budget Appropriation and I think this business should be dealt with

by yourself and the Speaker. I do not think it is appropriate for the Executive Government to discuss Parliament's responsibilities.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker

Mr RAINBO PAITA – I note the concern raised by the Opposition Leader but I am speaking in the capacity of the Ministry that I am responsible for and it is also affecting our seating arrangement which I am responsible for as the Leader of Government Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Rainbo Paita**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 12.00 noon.