

# FIRST DAY

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Tuesday 8 October 2019

## DRAFT HANSARD

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Page No:</b>
<b>QUESTIONS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Conduct Inquiry into Erima Shooting.....	1
Districts Equipping and Attiring Police.....	4
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Develop Mechanism for Funding Police Operations.....	6
<b>Supplementary Question</b> Financial Delegation to PPC'S.....	8
Interest Free loan to tertiary students.....	9
Issue Police Vehicles .....	13
Goroka Hospital – Specialist Training .....	14
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## FIRST DAY

**Tuesday 8 October 2019**

The Parliament met at 2 p.m. according to the Terms of the Resolution of 6 September 2019.

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Jeffery Komal**) took the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 2.50 p.m., and invited the Member for Nawae, **Honourable Kennedy Wenge** to say Prayers:

Papa God lo Heven, nem blo yu istap holi. Mipela itok tenkyu long yu bungim mipela na long makim mipela long kamap lida blong dispela kantri. Oltaim taim ol lida ibung em iblong toktok long ol pipol blong yu.

Tenkiu long dispela avinun we yu bringim mipela ikam pinis long dispela flo. Mipela iaskim long bel isi bilong Holi Spirit long stap wantiam mipela long dispela avinun. Em bai stiarim toktok wei bai ikamap long dispela flo. Halvim Prait Minista na ol minista long bekim gut ol askim na halpim ol Memba long askim gutpela askim.

Mi beten long nem bilong pikini bilong yu Jisas Kraus husait ias bilong laif long yumi long dispela graun. Long nem bilong em mi beten. Itru.

## QUESTIONS

### **Conduct Inquiry into Erima Shooting**

**Mr JOHN KAUPA** – My question is related to the law and order issues in the city and is directed to the Minister for Police.

On the 28 September, 2019, between 7 o'clock to 8 o'clock there was a game of rugby league between the Melbourne Storms and Sydney Roosters aired on television. Under

the Erima Fly Over Bridge, a huge crowd gathered to watch one of PNG's son Justine Olam, play with the Melbourne Storms.

However, as it turned out there was a big confrontation with our people and police personnel there. Two men lost their lives during that confrontation. The deceased were identified as Tatali, a 20-year old from Hela and Tigili a 28-year old from Komo-Magarima. There were also houses nearby who were victims of stray bullets and about six innocent people received gunshot wounds and were treated at Port Moresby General Hospital. The oldest victim is a 70-year old while the youngest is a 12-year old who attends Saint Peters Primary School.

**02/01**

The next day the Minister of Police and his team went in. and I would like to thank him for intervening because the problem would have escalated to a worse state but he was able to stop it.

My questions are:

(1) Can there be an independent inquiry conducted into this matter?

(2) If there is any latest report on the investigation, I would like the Police Minister to inform the House and the citizens so that the families of the deceased can know the progress of the matter?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and Member for Moresby-North-East.

Yes, this incident occurred on Friday around seven or eight o'clock where there was a confrontation between the Police who were checking the shop for the shop owners liquor license and drunkard bystanders who were present at the shop at that time under the Erima Bridge. The drunkard bystanders charged at the police officers and the police officers retaliated. The bystanders took possession of a police vehicle and smashed it so the police called for backup and when the backup response arrived there was an open gun fire to the public.

There are many stories but like I advised the deceased families, I wasn't present so I don't want to come to a conclusion. There are processes to follow and it isn't the public

themselves but there are police officers involved so I have asked them to come to the police station and write their statements.

The deceased families were worried that the matter will die out like in the past but I advised them at three o'clock this afternoon that the police will come and get the name of the witnesses so that they can go and give out their statements.

My office will oversee the process so I do not have any power to directly carry out the investigation. But I will make sure that those who carry out the investigation must be independent because the police officers know themselves.

Similar cases like the UPNG student shooting and the Hanubada shooting were not resolved. As the minister responsible I will make sure we resolve this matter and also all the other issues outstanding. I am inviting the witnesses to come forward because if there is no witness the Court cannot proceed and the police will not be able to do their job.

If there is an independent inquest, I do not know what other inquest, whether the Ombudsman Commission but the decision is with them and we do not have any powers over them.

Secondly, Coroner's Inquest, where the Court can summon those witness and ask them to testify where the witness feel safe to testify. This process is available if the deceased families request for it, we the police do not have that power to request for that.

So that is on that matter but we have already had a discussion with the Acting Commissioner and at the moment we do not have a non-lethal tactic to address a rowdy crowd.

### **03/01**

Previously when you fire a warning shot, the crowds disperses, currently they don't take heed, you fire warning shots; they still advance. This leaves police officers in a situation where they have to consider their safety. Will the crowd advance, confiscate my weapon and kill me? What am I supposed to do?

In the incident that has occurred where two people died and several others were injured, this is unfortunate. I have now referred the matter to the police to conduct an independent investigation. I am also with them having visited the '*haus krai*', of those who died and I will be visiting and updating them every week so that the relatives can see that the police is really discharging their duties.

When the investigation is complete, I will be pleased to table a report on it so that the Members will be aware of what is happening.

There was a shooting incident at Hanuabada also. The police are now progressing this investigation which was left to sleep prior to this time. But, if no witnesses turn up, the police can do nothing. The court also requires witnesses, otherwise they will say it is a waste of their time. Those are the responses to the two questions you asked, thank you.

### **Districts Equipping and Attiring Police**

**Mr JOE SUNGI** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is also directed to the Police Minister in regard to another matter. My question is in regard to the supply of, and equipping of districts with firearms and uniforms.

Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Minister clarify to the Floor of Parliament, the general public and in particular my electorate of Nuku whether the police is responsible for the distribution of uniforms and firearms to policemen and women?

I think it is not proper for the districts to put aside money or budget money for the purchase of uniforms and firearms.

So, can the Minister clarify to Parliament whether the Police Department is responsible?

If it is responsible, can my district be considered because I don't have any firearms right now in my district and at the same time, I need to give proper uniforms to my policemen?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I also would like to acknowledge the good question by the Member for Nuku.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this issue is not a new one and it is something that my office as well as the Acting Commissioner is looking into.

It is not the function of Members of Parliament to fund police operations, to fund police uniforms or to fund or buy or donate vehicles directly to their district. The proper process would be that the district allocate their funds which, from out of the K10 million DSIP there is a certain percentage that goes to law and order which I understand is up to a million kina. This can be channelled through the department who will then procure directly.

In the past, I am aware that members of Parliament have bought vehicles for policing and it is not clear who owns those vehicle today because after they serve their terms those vehicles are gone. We have had members of Parliament fund guns outside of the police procurement process and those guns are also missing.

So, I understand that Members are concerned and reluctant to channel funds through the Police Department because of this practice and corruption in the past. However, under my leadership in the Marape-Steven Government, we are looking to change that practice.

There will be trusts accounts set up so that Members of Parliament get full visibility. It is not that you give money and you don't know where it is gone. Those trust accounts will be set up in a transparent way.

We must be clear because now most of the funds are going down to the districts and provinces. Other national department, critical functions like law and order are getting our budget cut.

Two weeks ago, I went to Lae only to be told by the ACP Commander for Northern that there are no funds to fund police operations in Momase. So we are facing a cash flow issue. There are cash constraints.

So, for some Members who want to take the initiative and have DSIP Funds, we understand that will be cuts as well. But, if they want, they can channel their money where it is spent wisely and efficiently to get the outcome they desire.

#### **04/01**

The focus now for myself as the Minister for Police, is to ensure that we change the discipline, command and respect for the Force both from the policing point of view to the public.

So those officers that have been running around doing their own business and shooting at will using the Police Force as their own business, will be dealt with. That is the focus now which will take three months, once we stabilize the structure of the Police Force then coming down to provincial level. Some Provincial PPC are running the Police Force like a private business.

And so I will be relying on Members of Parliament and governors to assist my office to highlight those officers, who are running their own business and operating the Police like it is their private family. And so therefore, we can take appropriate action according to the law to deal with them.

To just summarize on the question, it is not the function of members. But the fact is, if we do not have money to buy fuel, then obviously your request for police uniforms and for cars will on the bottom of the list.

So if you want to take the initiative and want to submit some funds through partnership with the Police Force, then we can have a transparent way to ensure that you procured those items and you get the right officers to carry out their job.

Thank you.

### **Supplementary Question**

#### **Develop Mechanism for Funding Police Operations**

**Mr Allan Bird** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister in relation to the issue of Police funding.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the difficulty you have is when police cannot respond. My Province has 200 police officers. We have six districts and 600 000 people approximately. I discovered that the police were only getting about K3 000 a month in East Sepik, to traverse an area that is 4 million square kilometers. That is impossible.

This year, we started funding the police. We have an arrangement where the Provincial Administrator signs off, with the *section 32* on the request for Police for fuel so that they can respond. The danger is when we do not fund the Police adequately, they will start going to private businesses for help. We cannot have that.

We need to improve the way the police operate, between the National Government and those that are in the provinces. It is fine, you can run the Police in NCD, and they are getting resources. We can see that. But what happens when you cannot run it in other parts. We need to find a mechanism that works.

The Minister just said that the funds are being channeled through the DSIP. Well, we have complaints from the bottom regarding the DSIP. The Members are arguing that they are applying it correctly for Law & Order, you are saying that they are not.

(1) So the question is, where is the money going?

We need to have a mechanism and you need to develop that mechanism for us Minister and tell us.

(2) How we can put the funds in so the Police can do their job?

It is not a good thing to just sit here and criticized the Police and to use an example in Port Moresby then try to generalize that across all of the police in operations in the country.

We are interested in peace and good order in our community. We cannot sit and wait for Port Moresby. So Minister, you need to call us. And I want to ask you if you can call the Governors and every Governor has the similar situation, so we can sit down and work it out.

Already in East Sepik, we are supporting the magistrates. We are buying vehicles for the magistrates. We are supporting the judges and we are also doing that to the police. So we need something just a little better so we do not keep asking you questions.

Thank you.

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Governor for his questions.

I agree with him in relation to saying that we need to sit down. But with respect, given the state of our policing, the lack of housing, the lack of pay, work conditions, no uniforms, no fuel and no vehicle, the priority now for my office is to address them. To establish what those issues are.

Yesterday at the meeting with AFP and we are waiting in discussion now on this true cost of policing that they were assisting their constabulary. We have already put our budget two months early for the first time in the history of the Police Constabulary. That budget is K400 million. Whether we get funds to that K400 million is another issue.

So regarding the question on meeting with the Governors, absolutely.

When I walked into that office, I asked all the divisional commanders around the country, how often do you meet and they said four times a year. I said, what you expect to achieve if you only meet four times a year.

## **05/01**

So now we have the program that we meet every month. PPC's meets with them to highlight issues regarding no fuel, no car and no budget and their regional commander brings it to the National level on the Divisional Commanders meetings where they highlight their issues on the PPC level.

And then it's my job has the Minister to knock on the door of the Treasury to ensure that they get their funding and it's the Commissioners job to make sure that the ACPs are fully resourced with equipment to go down and implement. So we are at that initial stage that will take us three months. But then you have incidences like Erima where the Minister for



Police has to go down to the street level to stabilize the issues before getting worse across the board.

In my view on law and order will be number one issue for this Parliament to deal with in the next two years even up to Elections. But unfortunately, as I've been given this opportunity to fix this situation thanks to the Prime Minister. It's not an easy job, no one wants everyone wants the economic portfolio. For this job we deal with problem. But I'm confident working with this Government and the Prime Minister that by next year you will see significant changes. We are discussing with the ACP about improving Policing in the Provinces. So cars will now be -

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Minister, address the Chair please?

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker in response to the resources I have had discussions with the Finance Minister to release some vehicles for APEC that will be running pilot projects on Police Station of Excellence. And once the pilot project is perfected then we will start transferring those processes and systems into the provinces to improve the law and order issues.

### **Supplementary Question**

#### **Financial Delegation to PPC'S**

**Mr Chris Haiveta** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I am glad to hear his good explanation, and it's very good and that's the sort of work you do here in Konedobu. But we have a problem back at the electorates and provinces. The problem is that you have not given us the financial control and power of delegation down to all your Provincial Police Commanders. You are still holding onto those functions in Konedobu. That is why normal operations are affected.

In cases of emergencies the Governors of each provinces are faced with these dilemmas. If we don't respond we are dubbed as weak and ineffective leaders.

(1) Mr Minister, when will words be matched with actions?

(2) When will the Minister, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the Regional Commanders delegate financial powers back to Provincial Police Commanders to enable them make their own decisions?

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I am grateful for the many questions raised to the Police Force and because like I said it is a priority issue.

Mr Deputy Speaker to answer the Governor of Gulfs question regarding when will these financial functions' be accorded Provincial Police Commanders, I will say around June of 2020. That is once we have stabilized the Konedobu headquarters by cleaning the house riddled with corruption then, we will get out to the provinces. . At the same time many of you Governors and District Members are raising issues to remove your Provincial Police Commanders and I think there are six or seven requests so far. Some are saying remove the PPC and others are saying there is no financial powers. So what do you expect the Police Department to do? There is the new Police Commissioner, new Prime Minister and I am also the new Police Minister so I ask you to bear with structural changes and new things that are going to come about now.

#### **Interest Free loan to tertiary students**

**Mr JAMES DONALD** – Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is I regards to education. Few days ago the Prime Minister came out in the media stating that the Government will give interest free loans to University students and tertiary students.

(1) Can the Prime Minister inform this Parliament and the people of this country how will that policy work?

(2) How and when will that program be rolled out either next year or at the end of this year?

**06/01**

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for North Fly for asking these questions. Yes, it is confirmed that as of last week Thursday I travelled to one of the Agriculture Conferences at the University of Technology and during lunch period, I addressed the students. Also, I travelled to Manus yesterday and when I came back, I made the same announcement.

The issue or the announcement was that the Marape-Steven government will look into the possibility of ensuring that we have an interest-free loan program for our students who will be in tertiary education including universities and technical colleges starting next year.

So that is something that we are preparing and our Minister for Higher Education is in advanced stage in tailoring the exact principles and policies towards how we will ensure this funds program materializes.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you will agree with me that the cost of education consistent with the rise of inflation continues to rise up every year. The burden is so huge on our citizens, parents and families who have one or two kids in colleges and universities. So our government is deliberately making our interest known that we will make interventions at that level.

The previous government has been running the Free Education Program since 2012. The upside to it is that more than one million children are in school and for that we appreciate the fact that, that has happened. But there are also downsides to it in as far as quality interventions are concerned and many of our parents and citizens have pulled back thinking that it is 100 percent government obligation.

We will look into the policy also without putting burden on our parents and citizens. We will look into a program where there is a shared responsibility. I believe the greater burden lies at the Higher Education where one family is required to fork out K10 thousand or K20 thousand or K5 thousand or K6 thousand. That is a huge cost to the family.

We need to address our Higher Education fees interventions so our government is looking into putting together a program in which students can seek loans that are not time-bound or bound by interest that would otherwise compound if they had borrowed money on the money market or some places, which they can take their entire life repaying other than repaying to an endowment fund concept that will be set up by our National Government.

We will be looking at optimizing whatever pool of resources that is presently available in the education sector space as well as some community funds that are available. For instance, linking possibly the National Gaming Fund allocation to that sector so that our children coming out of grades 12, 10 or 8 can look for post formal school education program whether in the TVET sector, in post-grade 8 or post-grade 10 or continual matriculation. Or after grade 12 if they are looking for higher education spaces and when they secure space, our government will try to assist those students so that they can continue education and find meaningful engagements in life.

We have a specific interest also in looking at holistic education where our TVET sector is embracing at substantial way so that not only we prepare students to come out with certificates but creating students who can be productive citizens contributing meaningfully especially in the space of agriculture and the SME sector that we might also have intervention.

**07/01**

Embark on loan program for students to secure to assist in their school fee will have some qualifiers and am proposing few qualifiers.

One of them is average student who will be embarking in this program and start now to register yourself against National Identification Program (NID) so that you can have valid NID. That confirms your citizenship emanating from this part of our country and you are participating in this program.

So NID program will be a bench mark in which our citizen who wants to participate in this government beneficiaries' scheme be correctly identify so we encourage every student who are presently enrolled. And we will work with NID and National Planning to ensure that Education Department become a big partner in capturing our population data and making sure every citizen is registered and that is one of the qualifiers am looking at.

Mr Deputy Speaker, second qualifiers and very important one we encouraging every parents and guardians to participate in economic activity somewhere in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our government will ensure we put in agricultural intervention program especially at seedling dissemination with various commodity Boards and Fresh Food Development Corporation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as we speak you will agree with me every citizen of our country own a piece of real estate or land somewhere in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that land is not converted to economic use and I am the first to admit that I am not here as a government or leader of government to encourage citizen to be lazy, our citizen must contribute to the economy somewhere.

So, if you want your child to benefit from an interest free loan scheme we will establish that every parent of citizen must link to a District and Provincial office somewhere.

Where you are picking up seedling of cocoa, coffee, copra, and vegetable or have evidence of your intention or of involvement in SME somewhere? We talk about taking back PNG but we will never fully take back PNG if we don't encourage our citizen to participate in economic somewhere.

And we are trying through this scheme have a win-win situation, your child is benefiting from a loan scheme we are giving which comes at no obligation to the parent. The parent will never repay this money. The money is to be repaid by the citizen student him or her self as they mature into life.

But the parent is encouraged by this process to pick up an agricultural or SME activity somewhere and hopefully next year budget should have enough space for us to partner District and Province better and link our citizen back to their land to engage in SME activity. The practicality of this will be tougher to ensure it is mechanized and work quickly but however we will start the process to ensure that in the next five or six years our citizen know you are participating in government beneficiaries' scheme somewhere you must contribute to an economic activity somewhere. And to start their contribution we will establish program in which we roll out if it is not seed capital we roll out actual seedlings in the process and that is our main reasons and linking our citizen back to agriculture and SME somewhere.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this week Thursday am meeting the Commodity Boards copra, cocoa, coffee, and to seek their inputs as to how we should make this work. In the next 2 or 3 or 5 years we want to double productivity of agriculture commodity and parent and citizen are for warned. If you want your children to benefit from an easy access to government fund for loan interest free loan program you get yourself registered in NID program and get ready to make your hand dirty and go back to the land. Whether it's an agriculture or in SME somewhere we will try to create facilities that is partnering districts and provinces make our citizen get engage actively.

Mr Deputy Speaker as I said earlier its not hard we own 95% of land in our country you don't need to migrate to urban areas to squatter here you need to go back to where your land is and the question they will throw back at me.

## **08/01**

The same district which is disseminating the seedlings can be the same district that buys back the produce. We will do a price stabilization mechanism in which our produces are bought back and we can combine to ensure that it fits into our commodities export agencies for a better export outside to earn the forex we need.

Mr Deputy Speaker, those programs are now being worked on. Also we will try to allocate within the envelope of the present allocation to give focus to universities, tertiary colleges and TVET programs which students are coming out with various qualifications in our learning institutions and embrace them. We will allow for parents at the lower levels to try to at least at a shared arrangement pay 50 percent and the Government pays 50 percent. This arrangement is a model to see the appropriate ratio of shared school fees at a lower level.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am distancing from an absolute free education in the lower level systems but we are working on the higher level where students get certified and skilled.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I must admit I have people from my electorate who reckon Government is paying free education and they are not responding to contributing to the economy and they just lazing their way through life.

As Prime Minister I am the first to admit that I don't want to encourage lazy citizens but rather encourage productive citizens in sharing and carrying the burden of our economy.

### **Issue Police Vehicles**

**Mr RICHARD MASERE** – Mr Deputy Speaker, my question was initially a supplementary question but I was overlooked so I would like to ask a new question to the Minister for Police.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me congratulate the Minister for his stand and approach to work with the Police to visit communities to rebuild confidence in the Police, and for that I commend the Minister for what he is doing.

My question is in relation to a visit to the wharf yesterday but prior to that two weeks ago I was requested by my police in the district to support them with a vehicle to carry out surveillance work in the district. Last week whilst driving around I noticed two fully dressed police personnel in two unmarked vehicles with private plates. I wasn't sure whether they were hired vehicles or unmarked vehicles. The concern is that I saw a number of vehicles parked there at the wharf during my visit yesterday all having police stickers on them.

If these vehicles have already been allocated to the police, why are they still sitting at the wharf and why aren't they being used for police work in the country?

**Mr BRYAN KRAMER** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Ijivitari for asking a valid question on the issue of police vehicles used during the APEC Summit.

Mr Deputy Speaker, all those vehicles come under the Minister for Finance and after stringent meetings with him and his department they are tracking down some vehicles that were given to police for use during the APEC Summit. There was no formal decision made on what vehicles have been specifically allocated to police and those that have been used in the process of APEC will be returned back to the Finance Department and they will have discussions on what will be allocated to Police and what vehicles will be put on Tender.

There are some vehicles still out at large resuming police operations. The Police Commissioner has recovered some of them which I believe were up at Bomana and they have been moved to the wharf so that they can be accounted for. I am waiting on a list from the Finance Secretary and I will hand that list to the Police Commissioner and he will recover all those vehicles which have not formally been handed over to police.

**09/01**

I have made a personal request for six vehicles which will be allocated towards a project that we are doing in terms of running a station of excellence.

Therefore, some of the buses have been allocated upon a formal request so that we can assist police personnel in transporting them to and from work. Because most of the police personnel who work on shift and live in settlements face a major problem with transport, they spend the night at the stations until the next day.

So in answering your questions, yes, those cars have not yet been committed until the final decision comes from the Department of Finance.

### **Goroka Hospital – Specialist Training**

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to direct my questions to the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Goroka General Hospital used to be one of the best hospitals in the country. It has been considered as one of the referral hospitals for some time which catered for patients from Momase, Highlands and even other major regions around the country.

Just recently Goroka General Hospital built another wing and it now accommodates the state-of-the-art facilities with the inclusion of the new surgical and diagnostic centre which was officially opened in January 2018.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me also acknowledge our former Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Sir Puka Temu, for all his efforts and commitments in delivering the health services especially in infrastructure development in the country, and one of the beneficiaries is Goroka General Hospital.

After the opening we have installed some of the world class facilities such as cancer machine and other important equipment installed in the new wing. We were advised during the opening of the centre that Health and HIV/AIDS Department would engage specialists

from overseas or within the country to train our staff at the hospital on how to operate the machines. But to date the machines are lying idle at the centre without anyone from abroad or within the country to train our staff there.

As we all know cancer is one of the life threatening diseases that is killing a lot of our people. And most of our patients travel overseas to be treated and it's a very costly exercise to make such trips.

My questions to the Minister is:

- (1) What has the Department done in the last year and eight months in engaging specialist from overseas to come and train our staff in Goroka General Hospital so that they will know how to operate the machines to help our citizens?
- (2) Can he also inform this Parliament and the people of Eastern Highlands what level is Goroka General Hospital; is it level 5, 6 or 8?

**Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE** - Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Unggai-Bena for his questions.

**10/01**

I was in Goroka last week on my way to the Chimbu Province to close the Nursing Research Symposium on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I had the chance to visit that important facility. It is one of the best facility in the country and the first of its kind. I believe it is second to none and an important asset of the country that we need to fully utilise. It is a surgical and diagnostic centre that was built by our Government costing nearly K200 million. A full commendation to our Government and we must fully utilise that facility.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when we have a lot of long queues of patients waiting to go for operations in many of our hospitals like PMGH and Mt Hagen, cancellation rate is about 60 per cent. For example, if there are 10 cases on the operation list, they have only two or three cases going through and the rest are cancelled. What I am saying is that whilst we have many of our patients waiting to go for operations in many of our theatres in the country, we have a highly specialised facility that is sitting idle and needs to be fully utilised.

Mr Deputy Speaker, upon my return from Goroka, I had a meeting with my department. We are going to form a mobile team to travel to Goroka every time there is a need to utilise that facility, whilst waiting for the required number of staff to fully utilise that



facility which will take time because it has to go through all job creation formalities. But what we are doing is that we have trained personnel who will team up with specialist coming into the country to carry out operations. They will identify which patients to operate on and can travel to Goroka to perform the operations. When patients are stabilised then they can be returned to their respective provinces. This is the kind of arrangement that we are working on. We are also working closely with the Eastern Highlands Health Authority to identify personnel work there. This is the support that is being undertaken by my department.

With regard to the level of Goroka Hospital, upon my return, I have asked my department to inform me of the level of Goroka Hospital. A level 6 hospital is a regional hospital, for example, for the Momase Region is the Angau General Hospital and Nonga General Hospital is for the New Guinea Islands Region. However, I want to state here on the Floor of Parliament that after visiting Goroka which has the facility, I will say here that it qualifies to be a level 6 hospital or the regional hospital for the Highlands Region. I believe and state that it cannot be Mt Hagen therefore we need to support it to fully function as the regional hospital for the Highlands Region.

**11/03**

There is a certain process I will be following to declare which particular hospitals are level five hospitals and which ones are referral hospitals at level six. The Department is now working on a formal documentation for me to use to declare the hospitals.

In response to the Member's question, I want to say today that Goroka meets the requirement of a level six or a referral hospital for the Highlands region. Goroka is also host to the PNG Institute of Medical Research and the Goroka University and it also has many other support, therefore, we also need to support the Eastern Highlands Province and Goroka Hospital to be a level six hospital.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn

The Parliament adjourned at 3.40 p.m.