

**SECOND DAY**

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**Wednesday 9 October 2019**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## SECOND DAY

Wednesday 9 October 2019

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

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 11.05 a.m., and invited the Member for North Bougainville, **Honourable William Nakin** to say Prayers:

‘Holy God, holy mighty one, holy immortal one, creator of Heaven and Earth and the whole Universe. We give honour, praise and glory to you as the king of kings and the lord of lords. We thank you for our beautiful country Papua New Guinea and its people. Lord we are sorry for our shortfalls as a result of our disobedience, our unfaithfulness and sinfulness, have mercy on us. Bless us all who are here today and bless our Ministers in Government, the Prime Minister, his Deputy and the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy. Bless the Speaker and his Deputy. God empower us with your most holy spirit and give us the strength, wisdom, knowledge and understanding as we are gathered here to deliberate on important matters to move our country forward. Help us Lord and bless our plans and all our aspirations to move this country forward. Lord we acknowledge your presence in Jesus Name. Amen.’

### **BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to inform Parliament that the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met today and resolved that:

(a) *National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)* television and radio will be allowed to telecast and broadcast live, Question Time; and

(b) *EMTV* and *TVWAN* will also be allowed to telecast live, Question Time for news purposes for the duration of this Meeting of Parliament.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS (IN-SERVICE TEACHERS AND THEIR  
LECTURERS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA EDUCATION INSTITUTION) –  
STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that Papua New Guinea Education Institution students and lecturers are present in the Public Gallery this morning.

On behalf of the Parliament, I extend to you a very warm welcome to the National Parliament.

**02/02**

**QUESTIONS**

**Sale of Land in Kiriwina Good-Enough**

**Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to speak for the people of Kiriwina-Goodenough.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Lands. Before I do that, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Police with all the questions being thrown at you yesterday and your response to them. More importantly, you have come to recognize that you are not only a policy maker and legislator in this Parliament, but it is important to come down to our people and address their issues. You have done well by going down to our people at Erima last week.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity to ask my question to the Minister for Lands. It has come to my attention in recent times that the Department of Lands has advertised portions of land in my District, especially at the district headquarters, Losuia and the sub-district on Goodenough Island; the Bolubolu Station.

Which now brings me to the questions:

(a) Is the land acquired by people outside of my District and outside of the Milne-Bay Province?

(b) How did these individuals acquire these titles as it requires comprehensive business and economic plans for development purposes?

(c) How did they acquire the titles without visiting the District?

In order for you to come up with a comprehensive plan, there is a prerequisite that you submit a comprehensive report before acquiring these titles.

(d) Why wasn't my District through the DDA, advised by the Department of Lands regarding this questionable arrangements, which also sees my District loosing out on opportunities for further development of this land?

We have lost prime land. I am actually astounded. We have plans for further developments in the district headquarters and sub-district townships. And here we have people who are not from Milne Bay Province or Kiriwina-Goodenough acquiring land. It restricts us that we already have plans for development in these areas and now I am left with either very little land or no land for further development.

If there is an opportunity here, can the Minister either cancel these titles or return them to the District Administration?

It will give some hope to our people because this Government and the previous Government continuously says that one of the best economic opportunities the country has is through tourism industry development.

As you know, some of the pristine untouched land that we have here in the country is in the remote areas.

**03/02**

Some of the beaches and islands that are unpolluted are within my district but I am actually very surprised to find out that titles have already been given to people who are not residing in my district nor my province. They reside outside and yet, they own land in my district. How do you expect me to expand services in my district when the titles have been given to somebody outside of my district that I do not know about?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**MR JOHN ROSSO** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the good Member for Kiriwinaa-Goodenough for his very important question.

The meeting regarding the awarding of titles for Kiriwina-Goodenough land was done before my time but I will check with my Department and find out.

And if the good Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough can come and visit me in my office and we can get to the bottom of it together sometimes this week.

Most of the provinces have provincial land boards and I understand briefly that the lands board for Milne Bay Province awarded those particular portion to the successful applicants. It was advertised publicly and all Papua New Guineans were eligible to apply for those portions of land.

But, please visit me in my office so that we can get to the bottom of it and I'll be able to assist you. Thank you.

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Prime Minister. Before I ask my series of questions, I would like to firstly thank the three strong men who have stood with me in the Opposition to provide the leadership this country needs which is to keep the government in check.

I want to also assure the people of this country that we may be little in number on this side but we will be very lethal in our approach towards keeping the government in check.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in my last 13 and half years in Parliament, I have seen and witnessed most of the questions that have been asked on the Floor of this Parliament is in relation to either law and order, corruption, or the state of our economy.

Yesterday during the question time, we witnessed many questions being asked regarding law and order situation in this country.

I kind of felt sorry for the Police Minister because he was kept on his toes. He stood up almost three-quarters of the time trying to answer the questions in relation to law and order situation.

And not only that, our good Police Minister is also confused whether he's a Police Commissioner or Police Minister. He seems to be running around trying to do the Police Commissioner's job in contradiction to *Section 197* of the *Constitution*.

You are not supposed to be flying to places in trying to address law and order situation.

**Mr Bryan Kramer** – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My Point of Order is that, I would ask the new Opposition Leader, to please get to the point of the question. To make an allegation, that I am assuming the office of the Police Commissioner, without any basis of facts is un-parliamentary. Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Point of Order is in order.

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – I am getting there, Mr Deputy Speaker. But I just want to know if the Police Minister knows where his limits are and where his duties and responsibilities are.

**04/02**

The Minister should not implement the duties of the policemen. He should be running the policy within the Police Force.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are in relation to the 24 people who were massacred in Tari.

Before I asked my questions, I would like to preface my questions with a brief background so we are all kept in the picture.

In the early part of July about a month after the Member for Tari-Pori got elected as the Prime Minister, 24 people including pregnant mothers, harmless women and children were mutilated and killed by so-called warlords. It was a cold-blooded massacre in Tari where an entire community was wiped out. When help arrived, it was to wrap up the mutilated bodies, pack them in bags and leave them on the road side. The scene was brutal and ghastly even by the standards of the tribal warfare which happens often in many parts of our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the entire news complete with pictures was carried in front pages of our local dailies and it went viral on social media and even in main stream media overseas.

The Member for Tari Pori and now the Prime Minister Honorable James Marape said in his response to this massacre, “I am coming for you”. It ran in the front pages of the dailies. This comment was carried prominently in both main stream media and social media as well. Police and Defense Force were not present –

**Mr Richard Masere** – Point of Order! I do understand the question being raised by the new Opposition Leader. However, the Opposition Leader must understand that this is a matter that is being handled by the Police so he should not make assumptions that the Prime Minister in remarks as he is alluding to, is a way of pay back. This is a mere allegation of what his interpretation of a statement the Prime Minister made so, whilst this matter is under investigation, I don't think the question should be asked until that formal report is out, hence, he can then base his question on that report and raise it to the Prime Minister.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Point of Order is in order.

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – Mr Deputy Speaker, the Point of Order is not in order because there is no court order barring me to ask this question. It is not *sub judicæ*, I am not aware of any investigation. I am asking the question because it is a very serious issue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Point of Order is in order. The issue is under investigation but if you need to ask your question, please do so.

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – Mr Deputy Speaker, this is not an assumption. The Prime Minister did make a statement saying “I am coming for you”.

Now let me just leave Tari and go to Komo. Just last week, the Governor of Hela went to Komo and witnessed arms surrender. The Governor and the Defence Force Commander were celebrating with those who surrendered their firearms.

(1) Aren't we supposed to arrest those people responsible instead of celebrating with them?

Mr Deputy Speaker, lets come back to Port Moresby to Erima. This question was raised yesterday.

**Mr Pila Niningi** – Point of Order! With due respect to the honorable Opposition Leader, please stop wasting time and direct the question. Don't beat around the bush taking us to Tari, back to Port Moresby then to Australia, Komo, and everywhere.

Please ask the question so that other Members may have the opportunity to ask their questions.

Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, your Point of Order is out of order.

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – Thank you. Mr Deputy Speaker. I am only reminding us because sometimes we have short memory in this Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if that is the case then let me first ask my series of questions.

Firstly, Mr Deputy Speaker before I go on to ask my series of questions, I want the Prime Minister to explain to this country.

**05/02**

I read your manifesto which you announced on national day. In your conclusion, and I read with great interest that you said, these mantra, aims and manifesto are from the core of my DNA and not from data, statistics or policy evidence.

(1) Can you explain to the people of this country, what do you mean by, ‘these mantra, aims and manifestoes are from the core of your DNA’?

(2) Can the Prime Minister tell this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea whether or not he has visited his own electorate since the massacre and after he made the challenge to go after those people who are responsible for the massacre?

(3) Can the Prime Minister tell this Parliament and the people of this country whether or not any of the Tari killers have been caught and brought to justice? If not then, why not?

(4) Can the Prime Minister tell this Parliament and the people of this country why we seem to be celebrating arms handovers in every province when we should be arresting every person with a gun?

(5) Mr Deputy Speaker, what is the message our Prime Minister is giving to Papua New Guinea and the world by allowing gun handover ceremonies? You are basically telling our people that you can kill and mutilate people and then we can ask them to handover their guns and we celebrate together. That’s the message that we are painting.

(6) Can the Prime Minister inform this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea of the law and order policies and of how he intends to take our cities and towns back from these warlords, criminals and trigger-happy rogue policemen?

(7) Can the Prime Minister tell the people of this country, why he has asked each one of us to take back PNG if he cannot take back Tari?

I would to ask the Prime Minister respectfully to remove this slogan ‘Take back PNG’ and replace it with ‘Take back Tari-Pori’.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me thank the Opposition Leader and congratulate him on his ascension back to that very important post.

As we all know, we are a constitutional democracy and the *Constitution* requires the Opposition to be at work. He is just doing what he is supposed to do, which is very good for the country. So, for those of us on this side of the House, let's not take personal offence when they are raising matters of public importance. I think I am happy he is promoting Tari in a better light here so let me also commend him in that sense.

Let me give some background to answer his series of questions. Firstly, the issue in Tari, like many parts of the country is a result of many years of either lack of systematic intervention or neglect. I, as someone who has been a part of the economic team in the last seven years, maybe allude to the constraints we face, as population continues to grow but our economy has not corresponded in growth.

The statistics is a case in point. Our current recurrent cost today, we just came out of an extended caucus, discussing what will be in the Supplementary Budget and what is happening in the economy this year. An open indication of what has happened in the last 44 years of our nation's life.

Today, seeing these numbers, we cannot really pin-point blame on one individual person but generally in the way we've come on board.

The police case or lack of police action in Tari is an indication to us of the statistics we are faced with nationwide.

Today, you see areas in PNG which are not normally prone to crime and violence facing general breakdown in law and order. We just have to arrest these.

## **06/01**

I think the Opposition Leader's question is coming from that perspective that we need to step up and present a clear view to ensure we contain the law and order situation.

Now, coming home to Tari. Hela Province, is a province of about 400 000 people with only 60 Police personnel. About 20 years ago, when the province was part of Southern Highlands, it probably had a population of about 350 000 people with still only 60 Police personnel. About 30 years ago the population was possibly 300 000 with only 30 Police personnel.

So you see the corresponding decline in the presence of Police personnel compared to the increase in population over that same period of time. So when you look at the statistics; 400 000 people divide by 60 it equates to one policeman to a little under 7000 people.

So what has emerged is a symptom of a society that has absolutely little or no presence of law enforcement or the total entire gamut of law and justice sector working in that part of our country.

When I extend my horizon beyond Hela and looked into Enga and Southern Highlands Provinces, these three provinces house the PNG LNG projects, Kutubu, Moran and Gobe Oil fields and Pogera Gold Mine and even in the 1990 when Panguna Gold Mine closed including OK Tedi; they have contributed immensely to the running of this country's economy.

Mr Opposition Leader, I am happy that you share the same plight with me and whatever the motivation of your question is, you have just brought home a very important point.

These areas that fundamentally anchor our economy in the present have minimal presence of law and justice sector. But these projects continue to survive by the good will of our people and leaders on the ground. If it wasn't for the leaders on the ground, our PNG LNG project would have shut down a long time ago. But because of the leadership of our people especially our local landowners and local elected leaders including our Members of Parliament and our respective Governors.

A sad case which was alluded to by the Opposition Leader is the death of the 24, it is actually 22; but, 22 or 24 or even one, life is very important and it cannot be lost at the hand of a mercenary.

Whilst the negativity is there, the bright side is, the young guy whose mother and children were all killed didn't even think of retaliating although he is strong and capable of taking revenge by buying guns like anyone else. He openly cried in front of the Minister for Police after he spoke to me over the phone. He is the councillor of that village and I told him, if you go and fight with them then what will happen.

And so in the mist of negativity, good stories do emerge in places like Tari even though we may think that good stories wont emerge in such places but sometimes it does emerge and not only negativity.

This young councillor said, my Member I will not go and retaliate but I am leaving it in your hands and the law and justice sector. Although he had every tribal arsenal to retaliate, he never did and I take my hat off to this young councillor.

**07/02**

He left it to the hands of the law and order justice sector to deal with it. As Prime Minister, I can't be too greedy in mobilising resources to attend to this situation just because it is happening in my electorate. Law and order problems are prevalent right throughout the country. One cosmetic approach in the circumstances that has happened will be of no permanent solution to the entire endemic problem our nation is facing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our nation is faced with the threat of insecurity from within our domestic ends. The prevalence of guns not only in Hela Province but in all our provinces. Guns are a migratory species and they move from province to province and hands to hands. We have mercenaries who make money out of these movements.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this Parliament has it within our disposal to discuss and debate this in total clarity and find a solution out of this issue. If it is not a threat today whilst it is happening it will be a threat in the future. It is a problem right across the country including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The statistics of our police reports are quite sad.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we do not have enough police personnel in the country. We equate one police officer to about 7000 citizens. This is the statistic we are faced with. Let me place on record my appreciation for the former Prime Minister and former police ministers who opened the Bomana Training Police College where police personnel are being given further training. However, that also comes at a cost to our Budget and economy.

The more we add on into our public service, the more they consume whatever we have in our budget for our development challenges. The challenges are interlinked and integrated with each other but we can only get out of it if we work together for a better future of our nation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the immediate term, I think our Police Minister is doing a good job. He is trying to take stock of what he has inherited in the Police Department.

We have all contributed to the decay of police today. We have politicalised the Police Force. We wanted PPCs to our own likings. Some of us are entitled to one or two body guards but we have gone beyond that and made police officers become our personal security guards. Whilst we have the luxury of debate on the Floor of Parliament, the reality begs and points to a much bigger weakness in our police system that through lack of budget support and political interference over a long period of time which has allowed our police to be in shambles today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, I rally the conscience of every one of us to give support to the Police Minister to ensure that we build within the resources envelop that

he has. The envelop he has is very small and not enough to ensure that police is resuscitated in a big way. Let us give him the support to restructure police and put in firstly the police leadership. Secondly, work on police policies that can make police work.

I take this question as a reference point, let me offer one or two indications from my DNA. My DNA is possibly not correct and the Opposition Leader made mention of my DNA against government policies and party policies.

**08/02**

My DNA means my own thinking. As an individual I am entitled to have my own mindset and of what is inside me and how I think on matters of public importance. If every one of you do not have your own mindsets and matters of public importance then you are running around on influenced mindset. Every individual Member of this Parliament is entitled to their own mindsets that establishes who they are which makes them differ from each other. So my manifesto is my individual mindset which does not belong to Pangu Party or the Coalition I represent or to this Government.

A body of leaders must assemble to ensure that we have policies that are workable that will be subsumed whether in the national budgets, supplementary budgets or policies that emanate and legislations that are amended in congruent to the entire body of leaders' mindset.

My manifesto is my own mindset and as I have said, I will try to use that to sell against Pangu Party's dogma, policies and platform or against the greater coalition. So in this regard my own mindset in Police is simple. And if the Police Minister and his commissioner can process whether it is workable or not is up to the Police Department to process and find solutions for our country. The police minister, commissioner and advisors are paid to do that job.

As Prime Minister and as body of leaders we make statements of intent up to the agency of state to run with it, process, model and define it and see whether it can be workable.

So for Police matters, as Prime Minister, I believe that first and foremost that Police should be detached and divorced from political influence,

Secondly, police officers across this country must be detached from doing business and also detach from staying in one post for more than three or four years, therefore, there must be a rotational program for the Police.

In that sort of state even if there are 60 policemen in a place like Tari, these men are not localised so they will be able to organise themselves better and they will work to ensure that police is present in the area. Many police officers across the country are so localised that they become politicised and they don't carry out their duties and they become what I call, "community police". In such place as Tari you do not need community policemen but we need operational policemen, prosecution policemen and arresting policemen so I am just expressing myself to the Police Minister to try process my thoughts to see if they can be workable.

So rotation of policemen is important for in the long run as a government we need to build police infrastructure properly. I feel that apart from education, health and infrastructure we need to give priority to police and for every good police that is serving in our country I take my hat off to all of them. There are many policemen who are serving in the remote parts of the country and are doing their absolute best.

I am also sending word to those in Erima that two wrongs don't make a right. And to the country who is listening in, if a policeman commits an offence in the community, do not go and commit another offence against them to try to seek justification. You must record it and go and lay a complaint at the police station because there is a system in place to deal with these kinds of problem. The Police Minister is trying to clear that system so that it can be effective to use.

The Opposition Leader is correct in saying that there are rules for community police approach but there are also rules for police officers to carry out their duties. We have somewhat negotiated amongst criminals that criminals now feel that they can negotiate the way out of a problem.

So I recommend for our police system in our country that negotiations and community policing must never come at the expense of justice dissertation or prosecution. Prosecution must run its course and arrest must take place.

**09/02**

But the murderer, rapist or the wrong doer must not hide behind the Melanesian ways of resolving problems. Whether the police lack the capacity to prosecute, we are finding our ways back to just resolving and not bringing matters before Court but terminating those that can be prosecuted at crime doorsteps. We should now shift away from policing committee

and I think the Police Minister is working to ensure that the CID and prosecution capacity is built up, and execution of justice through the police system is effectively delivered.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Bomana Police College will no longer deliver only six months of training. They must shift away from six months to a Diploma Police Training Program; a two-year program for properly qualified grade 12 graduates. I spoke to some policemen in Manus and I make this statement again.

We will remodel if our economy picks up on a golden handshake reward program for policemen if they serve faithfully for 30 years or more. But we will balance it with discipline, in that, if you cause one problem, you are out. The police Minister can come and tell us which is the best approach, but discipline means these policemen must leave their jobs and the police will forfeit a portion of the superfunds and they can walk away with their own contribution. If they work faithfully we give a reward; this is to ensure that the policemen are faithful in their service. It will either be a reward or a disciplinary action, so some of this mechanics and structural adjustments need to be worked at instead of us passing those interventions beyond years. If we leave them and not address these areas in our time, problems compound and what concerns me most is that other peaceful areas of our country will slowly see problems migrating to them. We want to address this and stop it.

The Minister for Police knows this. Maybe the approach in Milne Bay or in other areas maybe different but if you contain law and order in Hela, Southern Highlands or Port Moresby, and et cetera, the country will be in the right place. I proposed some short term measures earlier that we must work towards identifying everyone. No citizen must run around without identification. These are some challenges that we have to work on and get the basics correct.

Important and foremost is to fix the police system today. The Police Minister will come back to us and tell us what is the right resource envelope we have to make those transitions and interventions in the medium term and into the 20s and going forward and match them against a blueprint that the Deputy Prime Minister and the entire law and justice sector is developing so that we match police presence with Magisterial and Judicial services as well as the correctional institutions available. This is so that our society can know that you cannot get away with murder. Whether it is murdering 22 or just one, there are police presence that can come after you.

I would conclude by saying, a place like Tari is a sad case where there is lack of police presence when there is an immediate interest of maintaining greater police presence in

those key economic areas. Leaders can agree that there is a need for more police presence up there. I know that we have a moratorium on the freezing of recruits but there will be a special submission to lift the moratorium in key areas, so we need to make a submission and beef up police presence in areas such as Hela, Enga, Southern highlands, and et cetera, and for us to dispense Police prosecution effectively as soon as practical for people to feel.

**10/02**

To that guy councilor call Oli, I take my hats off to him. Oli Rupu is the name of the young councilor who lost his wife, mother, six children, nephews, nieces and he said that he would never retaliate. To those who continue to use guns, I said I will come after you. I am not here and gone today. I am here and will be staying for some time.

I appeal to this House that the gun issue is a serious one. Let us balance the debate; how do we address human rights. We have the power within our hands and we need to work and start addressing them now. That question from the Opposition Leader is very much appreciated.

Thank you very much and God Bless.

### **Bank Accounts for School Children**

**Mr KENNEDY WENGE** – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Education. Before I ask my question, I would like to thank the Prime Minister in response to the questions by Member for North-Fly.

My question is short. Before independence, during those times parents all over Papua New Guinea were teaching their children to have passbook bank accounts. And even each school had passbook bank accounts for students before starting their education and were taught how to save money. Since after the independence up until now, we do not use that system anymore and our children do not know how to bank or save money. Once someone is employed, it is a condition that they open bank accounts.

Mr Minister, I am just proposing an initiative to make it mandatory in a policy for all children to open their bank accounts before starting elementary up to grade 10. Children must learn how to save money in banks. We must teach them how to save money so that everyone here in Papua New Guinea will adapt to a culture of saving. Likewise, a nation will not have to borrow overseas but within the country if we all teach our children from a young age to save money in the banks.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Nawae for his question. I did not quite understand the question and I am not sure how to respond to it.

You did mention about teaching students on how to open bank accounts if I understood you correctly. In school we have curriculum for those starting from elementary up to grade 10 then to grade 12. After grade 12 then we have other subject matters like accounting where they have some fair idea of bookkeeping and so forth.

Hopefully I have answered your question adequately, although I am not sure if I did.

**Mr Kennedy Wenge** – Point of Order! My question is not to go and learn accounting in higher institutions but to help parents to open their children's bank accounts. I want you to implement it and tell the parents all across Papua New Guinea to open their children's bank account while they are still young.

Thank you.

**Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure now and took note of your question, but I think it is the parents decision to open their children's bank account and it is not a complicated process.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is not difficult to teach children on how to open their accounts. As I have said, it is up to the parent or even the children can go and easily open an account.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS**

Motion (by **Mr Nakikus Konga**) agreed to –

That so much of *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Question Time this day being extended by 20 minutes.

11/02

### **Honour Commitment of K5 million**

**Mr NAKIKUS KONGA** – Mr Deputy Speaker, today is a very rare occasion for me on this Floor of this Honorable House because I will be raising this question for the third time. I raised this same question with a statement given to this Parliament in February. I raised it again during the last Parliament Sitting and it is now the third time I am asking this question. I am directing my question to the Prime Minister.

The question is in two parts, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is regarding the disaster funding for my province. All of you were aware that there has been heavy downpour in February this year in East New Britain which had affected all our roads. Seven bridges between West New Britain and East New Britain had been damaged. The Kokopo north coast road, which is the engine room of economic growth of my province is still in devastating stage today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the report compiled by my disaster committee requested the government for K17.8 million. The outgoing Prime Minister gave us the assurance to give us the K17.8 million but unfortunately he had resigned.

I also raised this same question during last Parliament Sitting. And with due respect to our Honourable Prime Minister, I know the money was available and has assured us and gave an undertaking for the first K5 million.

You are aware of cheque that was given to us three months ago. And I want to detail the cheque number and so forth because it bounced back from BSP-Rabaul because there was no money.

I only found out, Mr Deputy Speaker, before last Sunday when I went up to Ria because there was a big fight. Ria village is the village situated 70 kilometers on the foot of the Siliki gold mine.

In that first payment of the K17.8 million, some money supposed to be allocated to contain the spillage of the verge. And for the benefit of everyone here, a verge was an old primitive type of mining.

The Siliki gold mine is situated on the ridge of mountains between Pomio and Bainin. When that big rain came, it washed away towards ward one and two. And that is why I need money for my province. Forty-five thousand people live along the Warangui River and today as I speak, the weather is very favorable and, in any way, I could need that money so that we can bail to get some money and venture in this verge before the bad weather comes in again.

It is quite dangerous for the 45 000 people. The Warangui River which comes from the Mountain Sinivit is very important river to us because it is a common boundary for three electorates; the Gazelle, the Pomio, and the Kokopo. We have got about 45 000 thousand people living along that river down to the coast.

(1) Mr Prime Minister, when will I have some of that money to contain the verge before the bad weather sets in?

(2) Can some funds be allocated to fix up all my roads? The north coast roads such as Kokopo-Rabaul road to Kerevat are very important roads. The people travel these roads to get their cash crops and so forth to the markets.

The question is, Prime Minister, when will you give the money so that we can fix these problems. Thank you.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. My apology to the Governor and his people of East New Britain. I think after he asked the question previously, a K5 million cheque was given but due to cash flow problem the cheque is not yet reprinted so Finance Minister and the Treasurer are listening and taking note of this one and we will try and address your concern. At least to find some money for you to start those roads so I give you my reassurance again that we will action this process depending on how activities go ahead tomorrow in our supplementary budget ensuring that we merge the funds that we will collect as we retire the balance of this year.

So I give you the assurance, Governor, for the supplementary budget we'll work on at least K5 million for you. Thank you.

### **Incorporated Land Groups**

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Mining, and I ask the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, the Minister Petroleum, the Minister for Lands and Physical Planning to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, around 2006 I was appointed as the Inaugural Chairman of the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. Shortly thereafter, the commission was issued a term of reference from the Minister for Justice in 2007 to consult the people of this country and make a report to the government and this Parliament primarily on why do Papua New

Guineans have so much land - nearly 95-97 per cent - still in customary custody and yet our people are so poor.

**12/02**

The report on the review of the Incorporated Land Groups and the design of voluntary customary land registration was prepared and presented to the government with legislative proposals to amend the *Land Group Incorporation Act* of 1974 and *Land Registration Act* of 1996.

Mr Deputy Speaker, chief among the findings of the commission was the glaring fact that the resource owners or the landowners were never at the front table for discussion in relation to their benefits to be derived from their land and resources right from the beginning.

Mr Deputy Speaker, *Section 3(2)* of the *Mining Act* of 1992 states; '*That the Minister shall invite to a development forum such person as he considers will fairly represent the views of the land holders of the land subject of the application for the special mining lease and other tenements to which the applicants proposal relates*'.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the identification of the SML landowner party had always been elusive all the time as every landowner lay claim to the SML land leading to ownership disputes, some of which are still active today while the resource have either been depleted or about gone.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on the eve of our 44<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary, 13<sup>th</sup> September this year, the exact date the first Papua New Guinea special mining lease landowner was recognized and issued a certificate of incorporation in the multi-billion kina Wafi-Golpu gold mine in Morobe Province.

And this is the only officially recognized ILG in the Wafi-Golpu gold mine SML area. There may be other ILGs too but let's wait and see.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are as follows:-

(1) After this has happened, in fulfillment of the *Constitution* and the *Mining Act*, will you now invite *Wafes* Land Group Incorporated to a mine development forum as the only SML landowner party in the Wafi-Golpu mine development forum?

(2) Can the Minister get the government to now give financial resources to *Wafes* Incorporated Land Group so that it can prepare itself and indeed all other ILGs and landowners that will offer their land in leases for mining purposes to the projects with the following for the mine development forum:

- a) Full survey and registration;
- b) Restructure and review of ILG constitution;
- c) Establishment of expert advisory teams;
- d) Establishment of management teams;
- e) Landowners modernization program;
- f) Landowners policy development program; and
- g) Any legislative program

(3) If yes, I thank you on behalf of this country but if no, why would you refuse to recognize a lawful land group that is already properly registered and stands to set or lead the way in landowner benefit discussion?

(4) Is there any difference between a landholder under the *Mining Act* of 1996 and an ILG under the *Land Group Incorporation Act* of 1974?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr JOHNSON TUKE** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Rabaul for the good questions he raised.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will address the first question. During the period when the mining industry first included or recognized landowner participation, the process of establishing legitimate landowners caused a lot of disputes among the people which resulted in many court cases where decisions were contested and protested. As a result, many landowner groups have surfaced and we are now in the process of establishing the legitimate groups.

I have received correspondence from the *Wafes* Landowner Group. I am also aware that the PIU Landowner Association has been established.

The government established the ILG system which previously that function was under associations and we worked with those associations.

PIU was established along with other two or three associations so the process to establish their legitimacy is a bit complicated. When my department seeks to work with one association others take out court injunctions which make our work more complicated.

The second question regarding financial assistance, some time ago the government used to give funds for Development Contract (MDC) and we give this money to assist the land owners to participate in Mining Development Forum but at this moment we don't have

enough money. Once the government has some money we will recognize them. We will not give the money to every association but those that we have established through our system to be genuine associations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this time and tell the people of Papua New Guinea that I will introduce a new Mining Bill in the near future. There are lot of concerns in Papua New Guinea that we are landowners and yet we are not rich. This uncertainty stems from the fact that we are not actively involved and participating. The new Mining Bill which I will introduce will assist us in that regard.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is one of the very first Bill that I will introduce after the enactment of the Bill that was passed in 1992. The 1992 *Mining Act* was enacted due to certain emotions arising from BCL. I understand that a lot of you understand the implications of the 1992 *Mining Act*.

**13/02**

The bill that I intend to introduce is set to give more comfort. It will make more Papua New Guineans become involved.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

### **Release District Support Grant**

**Mr KONI IGUAN** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Finance, and for the Minister for Treasury to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to commend the government, in that, despite the constraints and the economic downturn we are facing we have been receiving a bit of DSIP which has enabled us to do our work.

My question is in regard to a constitutional grant money which all electorate Members are entitled to bring to their individual electorate. That is the District Support Grant. We have not received that money in a long while.

We will be passing a supplementary budget tomorrow and I do not know if this will be included.

(1) Can the Minister confirm whether we this constitutional grant money or the DSG which all members are entitled will be made available before the supplementary budget tomorrow?

(2) And if not, can we get it straight after the supplementary budget is presented?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the honourable Member for Markham for his questions in relation to constitutional grants and also budgeted grants.

These are very important to districts and provinces and there is no doubt about that. The DSIP and the PSIP has been utilised by Members of Parliament, sometimes good and sometimes bad, but generally good in order to facilitate development in areas of Papua New Guinea that has never seen development before, and that applies to Alotau District as well.

But the Member is referring specifically to the district and provincial support grants which are constitutional grants, guaranteed by the *Constitution* and most definitely provided for in the 2019 Budget. But again, in relation to funding situation and so forth which will be the subject of the supplementary budget as you well know, tomorrow, we will be addressing all these issues comprehensively.

But, suffice to say, every effort is being made to ensure that DSIP and PSIP have been preserved as much as possible and definitely the District Support Grant, a constitutional grant, will also be preserved. I believe in totality, subject to Parliament tomorrow and you will consider some of the changes to DSIP and PSIP as per the discussions and the Treasurer will bring that to Parliament tomorrow.

So for District Support Grants, every effort is being made to fund the previous years and of course 2019 remains outstanding along with other elements of the Budget. That is the truth.

Again, it is all subject to cash flow and I am pretty certain and can assure the Member that the DSGs are contained in the supplementary budget as well. It comes down to the question of availing those funds in a timely manner.

### **Bomana Prison Breakout**

**Mr JOHN KAUPA** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Correctional Service.

On the 44<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary while we were celebrating there was a breakout of prisoners and inmates in Bomana, in my electorate.

I want to find out from the Minister whether or not those prisoners who broke out are dangerous to my communities at 8-Mile or other parts of Moresby North-East. He must

furnish a report to indicate whether they have been captured or not. Otherwise there may be future breakouts timed around celebrations, and are there any plans for the Bomana CS in place? Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr CHRIS NANGOI** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Before I answer the good question from the Member for Moresby North-East, I wish to thank the Prime Minister and this government for recognising the people of Sumkar and appointing us to Cabinet to allow us to participate in the government.

I also wish to acknowledge the good question asked by the Member for North-East about the 10 remandees who escaped from prison at Bomana on the eve of the 44<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.

I also wish to commend the Member for the good work he has done in the electorate. He is concerned because this institution is hosted in his electorate. I commend him because at that time during Independence anniversary he presented K10 000 to the institution.

Honourable Member, you are doing a good job in your electorate.

Before I proceed to answer, during this time, Mr Deputy Speaker, there was an issue that was viral on social media. There was a social media comment that was circulated which described the Minister for Correctional Services in the last Parliament as being dumb because he tends to read from written speeches.

**14/02**

In my personal opinion I think that we leaders shouldn't be describing each other in such manner. We have been elected by our people to represent them in this Parliament and we are here to discuss about matters that concerns major issues that are affecting our country so that services can be delivered to each of our districts and our people will benefit from it. It's only the average minded people who make such comments.

I am bringing it to this Floor because my people heard about it and are not happy with it because I represent them here on this Floor of Parliament. Therefore, I want to make it known that it's my first question since I got this Ministry, thank you.

During our recent Independence Day on 16<sup>th</sup> September, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the other Ministers and I were invited to Imbonggu to participate in the national event which the Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare, was present also. It was a very successful

national event and I thank the Minister for Inter-Government, Pila Ninigi and the people of Imbonggu for hosting this event.

The Commissioner for Correctional Services informed the Correctional Services Institution staff to take part in the celebration of the Independence Day. So during the celebration at Bomana all the families of the officers and even the inmates took part in the celebration. And whilst everyone was busy celebrating 10 prisoners - 7 convicted armed robbers and 3 convicted wilful murderers - escaped through gate 24 in the prison camp. When they escaped they mixed amongst the crowd and made their escape through the gate. At that time only five officers were guarding the prison gate. When the officers did their timely checks in the dormitories the prisoners had already escaped and it was around 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

So the five officers who were on guard that time were immediately suspended under Section 52 of the *Correctional Services Act* of 1995. These officers consisted of an inspector, two corporals and two warders. They have been suspended and are awaiting the investigation to proceed and after this investigation we will notify the Commissioner of Police and it will be regarded as a police case. But right now these 10 escapees will be a threat to the communities and business houses and we are fully aware of it.

My general message to all the prisoners in all prison camps is that you have been fed three times a day for a crime committed. You all are well looked after in terms of food and et cetra so once the court decides that you serve the given terms we must respect the law and abide by it and faithfully remain in prison until you complete the term given. If you escape and are caught the only penalty is that the court will add more terms and you will be in prison for a long time.

And to the officers of the Correctional Services, you have signed an oath to fully serve this country with honesty and integrity and don't think that you work in the disciplinary forces and you can do whatever you want. We all must abide by the laws of this country.

**15/02**

Those who serve in these three disciplinary forces are not above the law. If they break the law then they are bound to be held liable by the law for their actions. With this, I thank the Member for Moresby North-East for bringing up this very good questions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 12.25 p.m.