

THIRD DAY

Thursday 10 October 2019

DRAFT HANSARD

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THIRD DAY

Thursday 10 October 2019

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair at 10 a.m.

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

Sitting suspended.

The Speaker again took the Chair at 10.55 a.m., and invited the Member for Chuave and Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Honourable Wera Mori**, to say Prayers:

‘Papa God you are the Creator and you sustain all creations, we thank you for being able to represent your people of Papua New Guinea on this Floor of Parliament. Today, I pray Oh God our Father to help us to draw wisdom, guidance and leadership from you. We come before you this morning and humble ourselves before thy throne of grace.

O God our Saviour, forgive us for we have sinned against you in the things that we do, the things that we say and in our desires but we thank you, Lord, that we are able to call you our father because you created us and give us this opportunity to represent our people.

I pray today that you Lord, can bless our Prime Minister, his ministers and all other Members of Parliament and give them wisdom and I also pray for the Opposition Leader.

Today, is the day that we come before you to seek your counsel as we deliberate on the Supplementary Budget, Lord, we pray that you will guide and lead us as we assemble to you and say the prayer that your only begotten son who is our Lord, King and Saviour has taught us to pray.

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come and your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily breath and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us and lead us not into temptation. But, deliver us from Evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, for ever and ever, Amen!’

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS – PAPUA NEW GUINEA EDUCATION
INSTITUTE STUDENTS AND LECTURERS –
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I wish to inform the Parliament that a second group of students and lecturers from the Papua New Guinea Education Institute are present in the Public Gallery this morning.

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

QUESTIONS

Power Shedding Exercise – East New Britain

Mr JELTA WONG – Mr Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Communication and Energy and I would like the Minister for State Enterprises to also take note.

Mr Speaker, PNG Power has been conducting a load shedding exercise in East New Britain for the last week with 12 hours on and 12 hours off.

(1) Can the Minister provide a report so I can inform my people on what is happening?

(2) When will full power current be restored as it is hindering needed services and business in the province?

Thank you.

02/03

Mr REINBO PAITA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Gazelle for his questions. In terms of PNG Power, it is interesting to note that we have those issues. At the same time, the state also owes a substantial amount of money to the company as a result of the cash-flow constraints that we are having now. The Minister responsible for State Enterprises and myself have been working with Treasury to ensure that we get some payments across to PNG Power.

The financial constraint has been a hindrance in resolving many of our issues and the Member has only highlighted one of those concerns. I think Treasury through one of the interventions last week released payments but as I have said, we have been always experiencing cash shortage, therefore, the cheque had bounced. But we are in the process of dealing with it and will be rectified in the coming week. May I also mention that we are also dealing with other important issues as well.

Mr RICHARD MARU -Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise this morning to ask a question to the Minister for Higher Education and I would like the Minister for Health to take note.

Mr Solan Mirisim – Point of Order! The Minister to whom the question is being asked is not present.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, your Point of Order is in order.

Illegal Acquisition of Land

Mr GARRY JUFFA – My question is directed to the Minister for Lands. Firstly, I would like to commend him for trying to tidy up that department. My questions are in relation to the issues of land grabbing, which seems to be taking place and accelerating almost on a daily basis in every province.

There are many examples of land grabbing going on; for example, the Kone Tigers oval, which was sold to a logging firm illegally. And there is instance like that in my own province where a large portion of land that was supposed to be for agricultural purposes was sold for commercial purposes, again to a logging firm. And it is not only logging firms and foreign firms but there are also Papua New Guinean companies involved in this land grabbing activities.

My questions are as follows:

(1) Does your department have a policy to address this particular issue? For instance, what happens when such instance occur, does your department make an attempt to go and rectify it and take back the land and deal with the perpetrators, some of whom work in the department?

My second question is in regards to substantial amount of land that are held by certain individuals and companies over a long period of time without development. I am referring to a length of 5-10 years and later sold at exorbitant prices to other individuals and companies.

(2) What do we have in place to stop this from happening all the time. Is there are law, whereby if a particular portion of land is not developed within a period of time must be returned to the state.

(3)What will your department be doing about this?

Mr JOHN ROSSO – I thank the Governor of Northern for his relevant and important questions. It is a concern to all of us in the country because we have inherited some legacy issues, especially surrounding land issues. And I am quite aware of the problems that he has pointed out. I have had a couple of discussions with him regarding those issues which I hold close to heart too.

03/03

We have an issue in the Lands Department where some of our people are collaborating with people outside so we have instigated investigations to weed out those corrupt officers. We need to ascertain evidence in order to permanently sack them. They are public servants and the Public Service Law sometimes applies to them which is a very huge hindrance to us.

We will be also taking stock of all the land in PNG as of next year, and I mentioned this when responding to questions from the Member for Bogia. We will do a stocktake on all our state-owned land throughout PNG.

I instructed the Secretary when I took office to address important issues which are of concern to the nation such as the SABL investigation and the Kone Tigers issue so those matters are currently being taken to task by the Lands Secretary.

Once the investigations are complete, I will come back to Parliament and address the nation publicly on what further action I will take. But everything has to be done in accordance with the law, so whatever land that has been awarded to these people through conniving ways by taking advantage of the law, we will try to put a stop to all those gaps, which include making changes to the policies and laws. One of these changes I proposed is in regard to foreign ownership of land, and this is not to drive away genuine investors but the fly-by-night operators who just rock up and grab 20 000 to 30 000 hectares of land without proper process. We have also had no Land Board meeting for this year because I have

postponed that and have gone through all the agendas myself to ensure that everything is above board.

Supplementary Question

Woodlark Island Land Issue

Mr ISI HENRY LEONARD – Mr Speaker, in line with land issues, I would like to raise this very important concern regarding a particular land on Woodlark Island. It was announced some time ago that the land was given back to the landowners, but as far as I know the current land is held by Vitroplant; a company that was supposed to start an oil palm project on Woodlark Island but was rejected. At the moment, the land is under Vitroplant and the issue is before the court.

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, Woodlark Mine is about to begin operations but if the land is not given back to the landowners then how can we get that project off the ground. It is important that, that land must be given back to the landowners first before anything else can proceed.

(1) Can the Minister ensure to clear up this land issue before the Woodlark gold mine operations can proceed?

(2) What are his plans and actions in returning that land back to the people of Woodlark?

Mr JOHN ROSSO – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Samarai-Murua for his questions. I will have to discuss with my departmental head before I can give an adequate response. However, I will be in my office all of this week and next week and I kindly invite you to come and see me so we can have some discussion because this is certainly an extremely sensitive issue for your electorate and the country as well.

04/03

Papua LNG – P'nyang and Total Operations

Mr JAMES DONALD – Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, just recently there was a rumour that the Total Company who will be operating at Papua LNG cannot commence its operation because of some pressing issues.

In this issue it was mentioned that it also has to consider taking in P'nyang in its package and consider it as an integrated part.

Can the Prime Minister confirm this pressing rumour which has led to Total's reluctance in proceeding with its operations?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for North Fly for his question regarding P'nyang gas field.

Mr Speaker, the Papua LNG Project encompasses PRL15 and I made it very clear to those joint venture partners in PRL15 who signed the gas agreement with the previous government on 10 April this year.. I am embarking on the two-train they proposed to develop in develop in PRL15. Let me confirm for everyone that P'nyang reserve is totally outside of what is the proposed Papua LNG Project; the P'nyang Project is also totally outside of what is now the two –train LNG Project. P'nyang is a new reserve. The previous PRL license holder, if my memory is correct was ExxonMobil and the earlier license holders had the right to the licensed area and I think the two sequence of licensing time lapsed at the moment so P'nyang reserves are up for discussions.

The Marape-Steven Government is in the business of discussing with those who are already in our country in the industry. If they want to discuss on P'nyang or associated stranded fields in and around outside of what is PNG LNG agreement and the Papua LNG project agreement then it is a business discussion that will need to take place. But I have assured members of our government caucus and I have also informed our industry players especially the three majors; ExxonMobil, Total and Oil Search that the government under my watch will no more give concessions for P'nyang or anymore projects going into the future.

Papua New Guinea is no longer a green-field investment destination. When PNG LNG Project was delivered a 19 billion dollar project in 2008 and 2009, a global recession took place on the market place for LNG investments and discussions were clouded around that time. PNG LNG Projects are very complexed projects integrating five different provincial governments from the mountains to the coast and lowlands but it was delivered on time within budget and is now five years on producing. So we have evidence of our country been number one in consistently delivering world class project in the first PNG LNG Project and I have informed the three majors who have already invested in PNG including Total that P'nyang is not part of the Papua LNG.

If P'nyang wants to come on board, it will be new project discussions in which Papua New Guinea Government will not make any more concessions and we will win where the law defines us to win, including all our laws governing revenues for our country such as tax laws, import laws and oil and gas laws. I think the industry understands where we are coming from. It will be good for our country and good for them if we within the context of current Final Investment Decisions (FID) of the Papua LNG and they look at the model of bringing a third train. But the third train discussion must come at a reference discussion where we as an economy and country are winning.

05/03

This includes winning in the discussions on supplying gas to our domestic market, a better and clearer definition of what is local content and a win that is harnessed from the current laws that govern the petroleum industry.

Mr Speaker, let me assure the Member from gas resource area that our government will not make any concession in P'nyang. We are starting to discuss P'nyang now with the industry players and of course within ourselves as to how we can optimise that resource. That resource will be brought into discussion in the context of our economy winning from it and our industry having no more concessional discussion of P'nyang or any other fields moving on into the future.

As a show of our commitment to the Papua LNG, for the two trains in the LNG Project that our former Government signed up to, we are subscribing to every intent of that gas agreement because as a provision under Section 185 of the *Oil & Gas Act*, whatever that is signed in the agreement has a force of law.

When our government came into play the provision of force of law in the Act took precedence. The law has to be applied because we are a constitutional democracy and we honour the existing laws that are in place, therefore, we have given signal to the market that we will not abrogate a legitimately signed contract or agreement.

So, Total, Oil Search, ExxonMobil and PNG Government is in partnership in the two trains for Papua LNG that encompass PRL15. Any extension beyond the boundaries of the Papua LNG Projects Agreement signed will ensure that we are winning on the half side in as far as what the law defines us to win.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Illegal Establishment of Nursing School

Mr RICHARD MARU – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Higher Education and I would like the Minister for Health to take note.

Mr Speaker, on 5 August, 2019, the Secretary for Higher Education wrote to the Governor of East Sepik and requested his cooperation to close down the illegal School of Nursing at Boram, in Wewak. In his letter he comprehensively detailed the reasons why the School of Nursing needed to be closed –

Mr Allan Bird – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I have not received that letter so I request that the good Member withdraw that statement.

Thank you.

Mr RICHARD MARU – Mr Speaker, this letter was widely circulated to other Members of East Sepik Province, including myself at that time so I am quite happy to make a copy available to my governor.

Mr Speaker, in that letter the Secretary asked for the cooperation of the Governor to close down the illegal establishment of the Boram School of Nursing and the letter specified that the PHA of East Sepik who established the School of Nursing never applied to the Department of Higher Education to seek approval to establish this school which has been in operation for almost a year.

Mr Speaker, establishing a School of Nursing is a very serious business because we are dealing with lives, so I do not know how the PHA of East Sepik can be able to establish such a school without complying with the laws, legislations and even the requirements. To make matters worse they have collected fees from students under false pretence that they have an accredited school.

06/03

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, what is your question to the Minister?

Mr RICHARD MARU – Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Higher Education is responsible for the granting of approvals for the establishment of all institutions of higher learning, including schools of nursing.

My questions are:-

(1) Can the Minister inform Parliament and the people of East Sepik when he will close down the nursing school under the responsibilities and powers vested in him?

(2) Can the Minister advise Parliament if action will be taken against the PHA of East Sepik and those responsible for being very defiant to lawful directives and orders given by your department?

(3) Can he also assure the people of East Sepik, especially the parents and the students that school fees will be refunded in full when the school is shut down to enable students to apply and enrol in other institutions if they meet the academic requirements?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr NICK KUMAN – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Yangoru-Saussia.

Firstly, on the issue of the school of nursing that was established by the Boram Hospital, I confirm the existence of a nursing school that was established some years back. And you are fully aware that there was a school of nursing in Wewak that operated in that location for over 30 years or more and it has been closed.

I am pretty sure that you are fully aware of the former government's intervention to ensure that a new school was established, a facility to be built for East Sepik and we funded it with the existing teacher's college which is the Saint Benedict's Teachers College. We have a faculty that is currently offering education to educate all our students who want to go into the health profession and that school currently exists.

I am fully aware that the school you are referring to was established through the hospital management. The hospital management unfortunately failed to inform the Department of Higher Education to ensure that there is proper registration. That protocol had not been made, so the department has written to the provincial administration. I know that the letter was written to the governor but attention was to the provincial administrator. The administrator of the province as a former secretary for Health is fully vested with the processes of the establishment of schools of nursing.

I am aware that the Department of Higher Education and the PNG Nursing Council which is an organisation that looks at the curriculum and standards of nursing colleges right throughout Papua New Guinea made three visits there. Of those three visits, the school at the Boram Hospital failed to meet the minimum standards.

I want to inform the Parliament and the country that this government is open and will encourage private institutions and will support in opening up spaces in the higher education

sector, not only through the nursing or health profession but all the other professions as well, whether it is a university or second tier institutions right throughout the country so long as they meet the national standards required. Those are requirements established under the law and for the purpose of accreditation we will ensure that we will comply to allow those facilities to be built and run and that includes Boram.

07/03

Recently this week, I wrote to the Minister for Health so we can discuss and find a solution to this ongoing problem. Less than 10 minutes away from the teachers college there is an existing government recognised school of nursing. I would expect that the CEO of the hospital should understand the established process. I thank the Provincial Administrator for writing directly to him and advising him to close the facility. But he has not done that and I have now requested the Department of Health to take actions and making sure that minimum standards must be followed. This is my position with regard to this matter. We have agreed and we will have a dialogue in relation to this matter and see an end to it. It will be either the school will continue to remain or otherwise but if they want to remain then they must meet the required minimum standards.

However, I want to say that there are two schools of nursing in Wewak serving not only East Sepik and West Sepik but other parts of the country as well. Therefore, we will try and look at a possible way that we can be able to reach a compromise and an understanding. I do know that the Health Department has taken a position on this matter some months back.

There is no blame-game here and it is an institution that affects our students. An immediate result I want to see is that there are 40 students in that institution - I am aware that the CEO of the hospital is not allowing students at the St Benedict College to attend practical programs at the hospital. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

NBC Coverage on Bougainville Referendum

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Communication and Energy. Before I ask my questions, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for visiting the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to witness the presentation and the handover of the Writs of Referendum from the Bougainville Referendum Commission to the Returning Officer of the Elections. I thank the Prime Minister for continuing to support the people of Bougainville in these very important times as we going through a lot of

changes. The country will witness a historic referendum which will take place in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Mr Speaker, my question is in relation to a visit by staff of *NBC* to Buin sometime back. There was a team of technical officers that visited Buin and set up certain infrastructure there. I am not too privy as to what they built there and therefore I would like the Minister to inform the Parliament of what they did there. The issue of referendum is very important and we would like the country to know what is happening there.

Therefore our national broadcaster who has the responsibility of broadcasting and telecasting this event must deliver what they are supposed to. They must be informing the country and the people of what is happening in Bougainville and it so happens that the National Government is the owner of this entity.

(1) Can the Minister explain to Parliament and the people of South Bougainville and rest of the county the reasons behind the visit of this *NBC* team to Bougainville?

I know for a fact that when I first posed this question, *NBC* quickly bought some equipment and went and installed them there.

08/03

(2) Can he also advise whether *NBC*, as the state-owned national broadcaster, is prepared to give full coverage on the referendum vote on both television and radio?

(3) Will the Government allocate some special funds for *NBC* to make comprehensive coverage for this act of free choice which will determine the political future of Bougainville?

Furthermore, *NBC* needs to build its own facilities in Buin if they want the full coverage. They are only based in Arawa and other parts of Bougainville are not getting full coverage and letting the people down.

Mr RAINBO PAITA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for South Bougainville for asking questions in relation to *NBC*.

They Members has raised points from his previous questions which we took note and has given rise to the lead-up questions he has posed.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the first question, we took note of his previous questions and effective from that point, we assembled a technical team from *NBC*, *EMTV*, and *FM 100* to go to Bougainville to re-assess the whole situation with towers and all the technical facilities which *NBC* owns and to ensure that we increase coverage as well and resolve some

of the issues that were on the table in terms of dealings with coverage on the referendum vote. So that was just the initial assessment team just to re-assess and then go forward in terms of the coverage leading into the referendum. It is an ongoing team which will continue on to cover the referendum and at the same time upgrade the facilities that we have in *NBC*. *EMTV* will also take coverage of some of the issues as well. At the same time, existing radio stations on the island will also be looked at.

In relation to the second question, I want to assure the House that we are preparing ourselves to cover the referendum. As we've done in the initial visit by NEC when they held their cabinet meeting there we will ensure that we cover lead-up meetings and preparations to give the country appreciation of what is happening there with both sides leading into the referendum and referendum itself. So you can have my assurance that we are doing our best for *NBC* to cover that program

Mr Speaker, in terms of funding and allocation, we all understand the budget constraints but within *NBC* itself we will allocate some funds as well as from other sources and from my department to ensure that we implement those programs

On that note, we have made several interventions through the former and now the current government to go into programs like analogue to digital programs. This is still on line and will increase coverage not just in Bougainville alone but the country as well in terms of existing facilities of *NBC* and how we can upgrade that. That's in line with *NBC*, *EMTV* and all other broadcasting companies owned by the state.

And taking opportunity from this question, I have received the petition from *NBC* as well on some of the issues they are facing which we will deal with going forward.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for these three questions raised by the Honourable Member.

09/03

Supplementary Question

Revive Radio Morobe

Mr KENNEDY WENGE – Mr Speaker, Radio Morobe through Kundu radio station was relocated from top-town to the old airstrip and does not seem to exist anymore, so where did it go?

Radio stations provide vital information and communication between the people in these areas and the rest of the country.

Mr Minister, can you tell the people of Morobe and the country whether this radio station still exists?

Mr RAINBO PAITA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Nawae for his question. As I mentioned earlier, all the facilities and radio stations that we have are part of the ICT blueprint for their upgrading and this is one of them which we are trying to upgrade.

Our radio station in our province has not been lost but it is on the list of radio stations that will be upgraded but given the budget constraints, we are trying to decide which ones to rehabilitate first. But within the rehabilitation plan we have we will give prominence and we will look at our own radio station and also all the other stations that are existing throughout Papua New Guinea.

I take note of your question and I will update Parliament as we continue with this program as approved by Parliament.

Thank you.

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Police and for the Prime Minister to take note.

I am an ex-police officer myself and now a businessmen and a politician. In my whole career as a police officer, I have never come across the kind of mess that you have created in the Police Force. The ripple that you have caused by changing the former Police Commissioner Mr Gary Baki - a well-respected elder who is entrusted with a lot of responsibilities in the Police Force and has a lot of experience - and replacing him with ABG Commissioner, Mr Francis Tokura. You came into office and you replaced him with an acting commissioner by communicating through a WhatsApp communication with another acting commissioner. And one month into office you put out a public notice for a pending commissioner. Furthermore, you have changed the entire Police Force maybe to your own gain and hidden motives that you have.

It has come to my attention that you seem to have two OB records –

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! The Police Minister is a subservient to a process of government so the decisions that he is taking is not individual but is a unilateral decision that is based on the process of Government and Cabinet. Whilst the good Governor has every right to ask questions, I am of the view that his question is bordering on inferences and

perceptions which is against our *Standing Orders*. Members are required to ask questions of decorum so I ask him to paraphrase and ask questions elevating away from personal inferences and more on the issue itself.

Mr SPEAKER – The Point of Order is in order. Honourable Governor, ask your question to the Minister for Police and refrain from making a statement.

Mr PETER YAMA – It has come to my attention that you have two OB records. One is in the Police Station which is the legitimate one where complaints are registered and the other one is maintained on *Facebook* where you tell everyone to liaise with you directly.

10/03

You are also going around the place and you seem to be first on the scene. Just like the incident in Tari and Erima in Port Moresby.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER YAMA – You were already there at the scene even before Tony Wagambi arrived. You were wearing a shirt with the NA political party logo. As if you are a police commissioner or police commander –

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! The good Governor knows that the Police Minister is not a Member of the National Alliance Party and was not wearing a National Alliance shirt. He is inferring that the Police Minister is a Member of that party. Thank you.

The Allegiance Party is different.

Mr PETER YAMA – He was a former Member of NA.

Mr SPEAKER – The Point of Order is in order. Honourable Governor, can you ask your questions instead of making a statement.

Mr PETER YAMA – I am stating a fact because this is the shirt that he wears. It's not that I heard it from someone else. It is written on his shirt, and that is a fact.

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! He was a former Pangu Party. Member, not a National Alliance Party Member. Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, please ask your questions.

Mr PETER YAMA – I will ask the questions, but tell him not to wear the shirt - take off your shirt.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Law and Order Problems – Madang

Mr PETER YAMA – As the Governor of Madang, I have been trying my best to help Madang by building police stations. I spent K700 000 helping police and law enforcement agencies in Madang.

Mr Speaker, law and order issues in Madang is hitting the headlines in our dailies and social media, especially on *Facebook*. It is okay when other people are making comments on the issue but you are a Member. I am the Governor and you are the Member for Madang so you should be coming to me to your province and sit with me and resolve the problems faced by our people rather than discussing it on *Facebook*.

After three years, Mr Minister, I have not seen you and never at one time talked to me or the, PPC. The only time I see you is on *Facebook*.

Madang District has not seen any development since you took office as a Minister or Member. It is almost three years now, so what are your plans for your people in your electorate of Madang. How do you see Madang crime rate compared to Alotau, Port Moresby, and Tari and other places?

Public servants must take note. From sources within your administration, you are withholding DSIP funds. I ask the Finance Minister to also take note.

You have over K8 million sitting in the account. Payments are made on a quarterly basis to Members of Parliament as appropriated in the Budget from Parliament. Once the money is utilized we are required to provide acquittals on the use of the funds before the next quarter is paid. In this case you are not doing that, you are saving that money and over K8 million is sitting in the trust account.

What do you intend to do with that money? Furthermore, you have not conducted a DDA –

Mr Joe Sungi – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, we have limited time for questions.

The question is quite confusing. Is the Honourable Governor asking the Member for Madang on the use of his DSIP or is it about police matters.

Mr Speaker, can you provide some guidance on the nature of his questions whether they are regarding police or provincial issues.

11/03

The Governor should raise his questions to the Minister as Minister for Police and not as Member for Madang.

Mr SPEAKER – The Point of Order is in order. Honourable Governor for Madang, ask your questions to Honourable Bryan Kramer as Police Minister and not as Member for Madang.

Mr PETER YAMA – It is in relation to funding and I believe my question is in order because the money is just sitting there in a trust account. It should be spent on law and order programs in Madang and therefore, I am embarking on that.

Why is the money earmarked for law and order not utilised and what is he going to do with that money? My questions are in relation to this and I think my fellow Member for Nuku is out of order.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr Solan Mirisim – Point of Order!

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister for Forest, allow me to make a ruling on the Governor of Madang before I entertain you. The Chair ruled that the Point of Order is in order so Governor, your line of questioning is not in order.

Honourable Minister for Forest, what is your Point of Order?

Mr Solan Mirisim – The Governor of Madang is out of order because this is not Madang Provincial Assembly, it is the National Parliament and questions are raised to the Ministers. He should raise these types of questions regarding DSIPs in the Madang Provincial Assembly.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor of Madang, direct your questions to the Police Minister.

Mr PETER YAMA – I think they are feeling pain in their arses when I am raising these questions.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor of Madang, can you withdraw the un-parliamentary language?

Mr PETER YAMA – I withdraw the un-parliamentary words.

Mr Tony Iguan – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the Governor of Madang has the right to raise his questions but it is taking a long time for him to do that and some of us also want to ask our questions. Therefore, I wish to use this opportunity to extend Question Time for 20 minutes.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Markham, time for extension of Question Time has already lapsed so honourable Governor for Madang, can you ask your questions so that the Police Minister can respond to them accordingly.

Mr PETER YAMA – I would appreciate if Members stop interjecting when I am trying to ask my questions.

(5) Can the Minister confirm or deny that his Department has two OB records and if so, when will he stop that nonsense of having one OB in *Facebook* and one at the Police station?

(6) What is the Minister's ultimate aim in his motive? Now that he is calling for more Mobile Squad reinforcement in Madang, I am the Chairman of the Law and Order Sector in Madang and I have no knowledge of any crimes or law and order problems there. What is his motive when he is asking for more reinforcements? He often speaks of himself as policy maker but contrary to that he seems to be a policeman himself.

(7) When will he put a stop to all these nonsense and allow the Police Force to carry out its operations without political interference and influence?

(8) Can he give his assurance to Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea that a new Police Commissioner will be appointed on merit with operational experience and political masters in government or would it be for his own interest and motives?

(9) What is he going to do about the killings through FB and OB on the current problems we have now in Rai Coast?

Mr BRYAN KRAMER – Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the big record of nine questions asked by the Governor. For the benefit of the Parliament, I would like to take my time in responding to the issues that the Governor has raised.

On the issue of appointments and the allegation that I have removed a sitting Police Commissioner, Mr Garry Baki, I want to make it clear that his term has expired and he has also reached retirement age acting on advice from the State Solicitor. So that first statement is incorrect.

12/03

On the second statement that I have removed Mr Tokura, again when we made that appointment a statement was made in the media that, anyone who assumes the office of the Commissioner will be expected to be on the issue of performance.

And there was also an issue relating to Bougainville. Since our last trip to Bougainville, many of the Members from Bougainville acknowledge the decision by the Marape/Steven Government to return Mr Tokura back to Bougainville in the height of the referendum. Again, I did not remove Mr Tokura, it is an NEC decision made by the Government. So that second statement is also wrong.

On the other issue of *Facebook*, I think the good Governor is confused. He says that he is seeing me on *Facebook*, what am I doing about the comments on *Facebook* and why am I reporting on *Facebook*, I am unsure which position he is taking. Should I respond to the

killings in Rai Coast because they are on *Facebook* or I should not respond to issues made in public on *Facebook*?

So *Facebook* is a public forum where people may raise their issues, national issues or local issues. People take their issues to police stations but most often, there are no responses so they take the initiative to bring it to my attention. Well, I am concerned about their welfare and safety so I pass that information to Police. Therefore, it is a matter for them to act on it or not. This is the first time that the people get a response from the Minister who is paid by public money occupying the office. Therefore, I cannot see any wrongdoing in that.

I advise those that file complaints or raise complaints on *Facebook* to please go to their station, register your complaints, file a statement and a witness statement because police cannot act without any official complaint.

On the issue of Madang's Law & Order, in one statement you were saying, what am I doing about the crime then in another statement you were saying that there is no crime. So again, I am unclear of how I should respond to you. It is no secret of the issues of Law & Order in my electorate. It is the same in Rai Coast, Tari and everywhere. It is throughout the country and as result of years of Police Force being politicised, underfunded, lack of development, mismanagement, corruption across the board, lack of employment, there are many issues that underlines this issue of Law & Order. Not only in my electorate, but rather than me using all my resources in the office of the Minister to focus on my electorate and my re-election I have declined to and focus on Law & Order across the country. Even if it might come at my expense of getting re-elected.

Mr Peter Yama – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, funds are put to the province through Members', Law and Order and Justice Sector and all other sectors have money allocated for all the Members of this Parliament including the Governors.

What is he doing with his money that is given to the Madang Province for Law & Order because up to now he has not even spent 1 toea. Yet, he is going around talking about Law & Order, while his own town is in a mess. I am cleaning up his mess anyway.

Mr BRYAN KRAMER – Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all, I want to make this clear. How I spend my money as a Member of Parliament is not a function of the Minister.

The question that he is asking in relation to that is out of order. It is important and I am glad that the good Governor has asked that, because I would ask the same question. I am

aware that the good Governor's wife has a hire car business that leases vehicles out to the Police.

(Laughter in the chamber)

Mr Peter Yama – Point of Order!

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor for Madang. You have a Point of Order but before I allow you to raise your Point of Order, I would like to remind the both of you that this is Parliament and not only Madang's issues should be raised. So, if you could ask the Minister as Minister for Police and he can reply as a Minister.

Thank you.

Mr Peter Yama – Thank you for your correction, I did not bring any family member into my question, but he has now spoken about my wife. My wife does not own a car company but my daughter owns a car company, not my wife and I want to correct that.

Secondly, I am not accusing him of engaging Arnold Amet's wife and even Police Commissioner's sister on the payroll.

(Laughter in the chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor and the Honourable Minister, since you both are personalising your argument, I will now allow the Minister for Police to answer your questions accordingly.

Mr BRYAN KRAMER – Thank you Mr Speaker. I think just to bring the matter back to decorum.

I think the issue in relation into Law & Order and allegation of me politicising the Police Force. I think the public are aware, the Members of this Parliament are aware and in numerous occasions to depoliticise it and go after PPCs or members in the Force that follow politicians around that make business out of their positions.

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So, if the good Governor has any specific evidence in relation to any breach I have committed in my office as Minister or Member of Parliament then I encourage him to take those evidence to the Ombudsmen Commission and allow them to deal with.

If he can't produce any evidence, or specific allegations against me, then I ask him to refrain from asking questions without any basis or facts.

Thank you.

Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Davis Steven**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 2.20 p.m.