

# FIRST DAY

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Tuesday 11 February 2020

## DRAFT HANSARD

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## FIRST DAY

**Tuesday 11 February 2020**

The Parliament met at 2.p.m. according to the terms of Resolution of 5 December, 2019.

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

There being no quorum present, Mr Acting Speaker, stated that that he would resume the Chair until the ringing of the Bell.

Sitting suspended.

Mr Acting Speaker again took the Chair at 2:35 p.m. and invited the Member for Lufa, **Honourbale Moriape Kavori** to say Prayers.

‘Tenkyu Papa God long Heven, long 2020 mipela kam bek long holiday. Tenk yu long givim dispela taim long statim bilong sesen bilong dispela yia, taim mipela bung long toktok bilong ronim dispela kantri. Niupela yia ikam, givim mipela niupela tingting long mipela, long Spika, inap long olgeta Minista na ol Memba bilong dispela Haus. Givim mipela gutpela save long ronim dispela kantri na lukaut long ol pipol bilong yu, husait mipela imakim maus long dispela bung. Tenkyu Papa God long harim prea bilong mipela, Amen.’

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

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – I have to inform Parliament that the *Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting* met today and resolved that;

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

(b) The National Television Service, EMTV and TVWAN be allowed to telecast live, Questions without Notice for news purposes and for the duration of this meeting.

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (Mr Perry Zeipi) –  
STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SPEAKER**

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** -Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament of the death of Mr Perry Zeipi on January 14, 2020, a former Member for South Fly Open.

He was first elected to the Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987. He was re-elected for the same seat in the Fourth National Parliament from 1987 to 1992, and to the Fifth National Parliament from 1992 to 1997. During those terms he had served as Member for Private Business and Temporary Emergency Committee in 1982, Public Accounts Committee in November 1985, and as Minister for Environment and Conservation in August 1987.

In October 1991, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Public Service and in a reshuffle as an alternate Member for the NEC in the absence of the Minister for Public Services.

He was appointed the Minister for Environment and Conservation for the second time after the formation of Government from July 1992 to August 1995. He was appointed Minister for Home Affairs from August 1995 till June 1996.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Honourable gentleman, I invite all Honourable Members to rise in their places.

*(All Members present stood in their places as a mark of respect to the memory of the late gentleman).*

**CERTIFICATION OF ACTS**

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that in my capacity as the Acting Speaker and in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution* certified the following Acts as having been passed by the National Parliament:

- (1) Customs Tariff (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019,*
- (2) Excise Tariff (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*
- (3) Goods and Services Tax (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(4) *Income tax (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(5) *Income Tax, Dividend (Withholding) Tax and Interest (Withholding) Tax Rates (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(6) *Insurance (Papua LNG Project) (Amendment) Act 2019.*

(7) *Konehada Petroleum Park Authority (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(8) *Prices Regulations (Papua LIS Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(9) *Resources Contracts Fiscal Stabilization (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

(10) *Stamp Duties (Papua LNG Project)(Amendment) Act 2019.*

**02/01**

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Prevention Measures for Coronavirus**

**Mr. KOBBY BOMOREO** – Mr Acting Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Immigration.

Mr Acting Speaker, in the beginning of this year, we heard of a disease, I think the Minister for Health is aware of the sickness that has occurred in China—the Corona Virus. This sickness has spread to other countries in the world.

My question is straightforward. For the interest of the people of Papua New Guinea.

Does the Department of Immigration have any plans to protect the citizens of Papua New Guinea from this virus especially along the borders where the planes and ships transit back and forth?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr WESTLY NUKUNDJ** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, through you, I thank the Honorable Member for Tewai-Siassi for asking a very important question at this point in time.

Firstly, the Marape-Steven Government is taking the issue of Corona Virus very seriously. The moment we heard of its occurrence, the Department of Immigration which I represent, responded swiftly. I think you all might have seen in the media.

I have used provisions of the *Constitution* for the Department of Immigration which gives me the power to stop the movements of all the ships, planes and people from moving

back and forth across the borders. I used the *Immigration Act, section 8, subsection 1(b)* to take action.

But, we didn't just stop them. On the first day, we notified them that because we are at the gateway for the travelling public; we must control. So, whoever moving back and forth in the country, we would like put a stop to all the airlines, shipping companies. All people moving back and forth on the borders have to go through the quarantine process.

The Marape-Steven Government has established a ministerial committee headed by Honorable Minister for Health. In the coming days, he is going to make a statement on that.

But, responsibility of the Department of Immigration is to control the gateway.

We have put a stop to receiving passenger planes from Asia region and within the last 14 days, people were restricted to travel to China.

So, if people insist on travelling to China, we prohibit planes to transport them here. The restrictions in place are effective as I speak.

In addition, all the planes whether they are on schedule or charter will go through all Jacksons International Airport as of today.

There are charter planes that transit to Ok Tedi and Lihir, they are required to come through Jacksons International Airport.

These are the systems and process put in place and headed by Honorable Minister for Health. There are officers from the Department of Health, NAKIA, Customs, and Immigration who are all there to make sure these passengers have received their quarantine checks from where they have travelled in from.

Once they are cleared, planes can go to their domestic destinations.

### **03/01**

We have put restrictions on all ships and they must enter through three entry points in Papua New Guinea; one in Rabaul; the other in Lae, and the last one in Port Moresby.

We can also noticed that many ships that enter the country are involved with big companies such as Ramu Nickel, New Britain Palm Oil Limited (NBPOL) and others.

But for now, all other ports are restricted, these are the only three entry points. If you want to load or unload cargo you must go through these three ports. But this restriction is temporary It's only in place until other provinces establish their quarantine services to give clearance. For example, at Ramu Nickel, an average of three ships enter Ramu in a day unlike Lae.

The Department of Immigration and the Ministerial Committee is looking at establishing quarantine services there so that they can give clearance for the ships to enter the province.

With regards to border posts, last Thursday, our main border post at Wutung was closed. But as of today, the post reopened because there are officers on the ground to check people. Officers from various organizations and departments such as health workers, NAQIA, Customs, the Department of Immigration and the Provincial Government are there.

But we need to work closely with the provincial government and the local members to provide good leadership. I had the opportunity to call the Opposition Leader who is from Sandaun province, but he has not responded. I can see him seated on the other side of the Chamber.

All these measures are in place and the Government is ready to protect the citizens of this country. It will be better if the Minister heading the ministerial committee against the Corona Virus give a statement to clear the misconceptions.

I hope I have answered your question. Thank you, Acting Speaker.

### **HELP Program – Education**

**Mr JIMMY UGURO** – Thank you, Acting Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the Minister for Education can take note.

This is in regard to the HELP program, school fee assistance from the Marape-Steven Government. We are now approaching the registration for the school enrolment and I have three questions to be directed to the Honorable Minister.

(1) Do you have a plan already in place through your Department to roll out the HELP program to the universities, colleges and technical schools?

(2) Has the school fee approved at K60 million last week as announced by the Government through the media been rolled out already to the institutions?

(3) If the school fees are not paid on time, will it affect the students' enrolments in their various institutions?

We understand that the Members of Parliament are coming in with 63.37 per cent from Elementary up to Grade 12.

**04/01**

But this is very important for universities and tertiary institutions. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr NICK KUMAN** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker and I want to extend my thanks to the Member for Usino-Bundi.

Firstly, the HELP Program—Higher Education Loan Program policy decision was made on the 17 December 2019. And through that decision, we are directed as a government agency to implement that program. The HELP program is a policy that is available to all tertiary institutions right throughout the country.

This program will not replace TESAS program under the Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES), nor will it replace the Higher Academic Excellence Scholarship (HECAS). AES and HECAS are initiatives provided by the government and it will continue to remain.

In the meantime, the HELP program will kick in the first semester of this year.

To answer your question, yes, we have been working on this program for more than eight months since its approval in December. This program is now at the final stage of implementation. I want to extend my thank you to the Prime Minister.

He requested for us to have an audience with all the heads of higher learning institutions in Papua New Guinea in January, which we did. On 21 January, we met with almost 80 per cent of all the heads of institutions at the University of Papua New Guinea.

In those conversations, the Prime Minister clearly articulated to the heads of the institutions that the HELP program, although a government program, is not compulsory. It's not compulsory for every student and parent. It intends to fill the gap of TESAS students. It will be available to students who want to obtain loan for various programs that they have undertaken both at the university level and the colleges in this country, if they wish to obtain the loan to pay for their school fees.

And therefore, those information were given to all the heads of the institutions who attended. We also stressed that no student should be turned away in any higher education institution and the same thing applies to the lower education systems in the country. This is because the government still pays the TFF. The parents' component will kick in in the last quarter of this year.

The HELP program is provided as such that it's not compulsory but it's up to the students. But the institutions cannot use that as a basis. If it's not being paid on time, then there is a basis for the institution to turn away their students.

For example, the tuition fee at the University of Papua New Guinea is only K2,900 while the bulk of the cost is for the boarding and lodging. You will notice that the University of Papua New Guinea is charging close to K14,000 or there about.

Our effort is to pay that tuition fee but until such time, the government looks at the maximum threshold that loans should be available to each students if they apply for it. I will announce the details or make a statement on the floor of Parliament within these two weeks of sitting.

This is to give clarity to all parents and students attending the higher institutions in the country as to how much will be made available.

## **05/01**

In the meantime, there is a guarantee from the Government that the policy will be available. When students go through registration, they can ask for a loan from Department of Higher Education. An application form will be made available in nearly all the institution in the country.

So for your first question, yes, it is available.

At the close of registration which is this week Friday, I will then know the total number of student enrolled in all the institutions country.

I then will go back to the Cabinet as soon as the list is available, get the decision from the Cabinet and will announce to the nation as to how much money will be available. Any outstanding amount after this will be the responsibility of the parents.

On the issue of K60 million, we will pay on a quarterly basis, not half yearly or one-off payment annually. We will make available those funds to the Department of Higher Education and they will manage it on a quarterly basis. We all know that our annual academic calendar has two semesters .Based on the performance of students, we will reassess the students whether TESAS or help will be made available to those students. Those who do not make to the second semester will go back to square one.

I urge all the institution in this country, don't turn back the student ,when they are given the space in your institution, they earned those spaces because of their performance in the



2019 Grade 12 examinations .More than 50 per cent of those did really well in the 2019 examination

Only 11,700 spaces were available in the country so 2860 students were not able to find a space; however, I am pleased to announce on the Floor of Parliament that those students have now been placed in to the system. I think I have responded to all questions.

The basic information is now available so any parents that is affected by this program, do let us know. There is a 24-hour information line available at the Department of Higher Education and they will answer to every query raised by student and parents. Thank you.

### **Supplementary Question**

#### **Clarify School Fee Sharing Arrangement**

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – The Honourable Minister for Higher Education said that there is a 63-37 per cent sharing arrangement between the government and the parents.

(1) My question is, where is this figure coming from?

(2) As far as this Parliament is concerned, when we passed the Budget in November, it was 50 per cent parents and 50 per cent government.

(2) When did this change happen and how did it happen?

Is this another ad hoc policy announcement or other decision or figures we just plugged in out of the air. When the budget is passed on the Floor of Parliament it's an act of Parliament, it becomes law.

So are we trying to create another confusion here? Do we have a confused government?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**06/01**

**Mr NICK KUMAN** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker and I also thank the Opposition Leader.

I made a statement in response to a question on higher education but one of the questions relates to 63-37. It is a subsequent NEC decision of which a lot of parents out there cannot really afford. So, when there is a major shift, we have to make sure that we give at least some comfort to the parents so that it can allow them to pay their component at a later part of the academic year. That is the –

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, when an *Act* is passed on the Floor of Parliament it is a *Law*. And to change any law, we bring it back to Parliament, debate on it and we pass it. As far as this Parliament is concerned, when we passed the budget, it was 50-50 and NEC does not have the powers to change that law; only Parliament can do that. It is very confusing amongst the parents.

I do not know whether you are Higher Education Minister or Education Minister and it doesn't matter but the fact is, we have passed a law on this Floor of Parliament and it is 50-50. I do not know where the 63-37 per cent arrangement is coming from.

**Mr Allan Bird** – Point of Order! These funds are appropriation bills which contains a certain budgeted amount. We never passed a bill that said, that this Government was going to pay 50 per cent of the school fees. We had a budget amount and by law within the budget amount after it is passed by Parliament, NEC is allowed to maneuver within the amounts that are set by this Parliament. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr Belden Namah** – The Governor seems to be misleading the Parliament as well. The fact still remains. When debated the budget, it was 50-50.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, there cannot be any Point of Order on another Point of Order. The Honourable Minister is in the process of answering your question.

**Mr NICK KUMAN** – Mr Acting Speaker, the issue raised by the Opposition Leader is regarding the statement made by the Treasurer where 50-50 refers to TFF and the Health Programs. We split the amount of money that was allocated for Education, where half goes to the TFF Program and the other half goes to the Health Program. The percentage worked out by the Education Department using those budget documents is for the Government to pay 63 percent and the parents to pay 37 percent. That is the actions of the budget so, I do not know which documents he is referring to. Where did he get his facts and figures?

*(Mr Belden Namah interjecting)*

## **Audit Report – Trust Fund**

**Mr JAMES DONALD** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Mr Acting Speaker, in December last year, I raised an ongoing legacy issue happening in Western Province regarding our Trust Funds. If everyone can recall, through you Mr Acting Speaker, I have raised this question on the issue. There are people who are trying to steal our funds. After few days after I raised that issue, excessive transaction took place in which K58 million was diverted into two accounts. I have been working closely with my team in Western Province and raised this question on when the audit report will be tabled here in Parliament so that we can use this report to quickly settle the matter.

**07/01**

It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Department to bring this report before Parliament. Western Province is in dire need to be fixed so what is the delay? Daru Town is facing a lot of problems lately like the Madang and we really need the money.

Mr Acting Speaker, through you, when will this audit report be tabled here in Parliament? We need to clear the air and free up the money in order for us to use.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – I thank the Member for North Fly for his question. It is a question very dear to his heart and for the benefit of the people of Western Province.

Before I answer his question, this is the first time in 2020 I stand to respond to a question, I therefore would like to wish all Members of Parliament both in Government and Opposition a very pleasant 2020. It is a year that offers us many opportunities as well as challenges. Some of those challenges we have created as human beings but as human beings, we must unbundle and unravel those challenges for us to forge and find a way forward for our country. And so I wish each and every one of you leaders a pleasant 2020 and I look forward to working with each and every one of you on behalf our people.

Mr Acting Speaker, firstly, let me apologise to the people of Western Province for what is an unnecessary delay in our bureaucratic systems but as of last night, I received a copy of that audit report on my table. In the very next NEC Meeting which we propose to hold within this Sitting of Parliament, we will ensure that the report is tabled in Cabinet to be given clearance. And for the audit report on the use of non CMCA Fund be tabled in Parliament for the benefit of the country, the people of Western Province, the beneficiaries of

non CMCA, the leaders of the province and the three Open Members of Parliament. It is going to be for us to start now to progress payment on some of those audited projects and more importantly find a better and safer way to secure that those funds are not wasted but put to good use to arrive at projects that are tangible and beneficial to the beneficiaries of those funds.

Mr Acting Speaker, I give you assurance that this report will be tabled in this Sitting of Parliament which hopefully should run for the next two weeks.

### **Creation of new Electorates**

**Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA** – I direct my questions to the Prime Minister and it is in relation to the review of the Electoral Commission and the electoral boundaries in the country.

Last week, I was in my electorate and my people asked if the Government has plans to split my electorate into two as it is a very big electorate. I raised this issue in last year's sitting as well as some other colleague Members of Parliament.

**08/01**

There are some electorates in the country that are much bigger than others such as Kairuku-Hiri, Lagaip-Pogera, Talasea and many other areas in Morobe Province.

I think the last Boundaries Commission Report conducted was in 2011 and I believe that Parliament rejected this report. The reason why I am saying this is because the population of this country has increased and it definitely requires the Government to consider reviewing all the electoral boundaries.

Mr Acting Speaker, my question is whether the Government has any plans to reconvene the Boundaries Commission to review the existing electoral boundaries with the view to increase the existing electorates?

Of course, we know and understand that by law, the *Constitution* only allows for 120 electorates but currently we have 111 electorates so only 9 electorates will be allowed by law. This will mean that if the Electoral Boundaries Commission comes up with a recommendation to increase the number of electorates to more than 9 electorates then Parliament will have to consider the possibility of amending the *Constitution* to cater for that.

So my next question is, whether the Government is considering the option of amending the *Constitution* with the view to increasing the number of electorates?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker and let me also thank the Member for Komo-Magarima for asking a very important question.

Yes, our Government has realised the importance of ensuring our country is adequately represented by representation in this National Parliament to embark on resuscitating or starting up the Electoral Boundaries Commission. In fact, in our last Cabinet, we approved for an Electoral Boundaries Commission to be established to ensure that work is carried out to give us the necessary findings report and statistics that should qualify us to move down the path of splitting electorates.

Mr Acting Speaker, speaking on electorate splitting, I think that the last successful tabled report was done by Electoral Boundaries Commission in 1977, if I am not wrong and we all sitting in this House are occupying seats that were created as a result of that report in my view and I stand to be qualified. Since then, about five attempts were made by the Electoral Boundaries Commission set up to create new electorates or look into what is possibly a need to create new electorates. But, those five reports were unsuccessful and were not able to pass through the National Parliament and received the national required support so those reports were made redundant.

Today, in the face of a growing population especially 2020, a year of the National Census that should affirm where our population sits but from our last Census in 2011 did confirm that our population has now gone past seven million so population alone warrants a look into the Electoral Boundaries into our country.

**09/01**

Simply put, in 1977 our population was around three million people. Today, our population has gone over seven million. It has exceeded our population of 1977 by 150 per cent but the number of seats on the House of Parliament has not yet increased in proportion to the population increase.

Population is a fundamental basis to give rise to the creation of new electorates. As the question raised, some electorates have set out in their mind that they are overly qualified such as Kairuku-Hiri being one of them. But doing it verbally cannot give rise to the creation of new elections. A process needs to be sanctioned and our Government being pro-active and

responsive to the prevalent need in society; especially the need for an educated representation of Members of Parliament, we have now set-up the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

And we have given commitment that by the middle of this year, the substantial basis for us to ascertain exactly which turn of direction we take in as far as EBC is concerned will be created and I will in the course of this year as the Minister responsible bring these matters to both the Government Caucus and the Opposition for a bi-partisan approach.

So, we will look into this not on a piece-meal basis but on a wholistic basis, making sure that in the future as our nation reaches fifty years of Independence in 2025, the representation of our people on the Floor of Parliament must be given due care and consideration, and the EBC process that we have started, will begin the process in which will bring to conclusion to exactly how many number of seats we have in this Parliament that responds to our population growth of over 150 percent.

To confirm to the good Member for Komo-Magarima in responding to his question, let me affirm in this manner that the Electoral Boundaries Commission has been set up and we will go to the due process in commissioning the members of the commission and we will start the process early. And by mid-this year we should know what form and shape the conversations have taken. And I appeal to every Member of this House to give your honest view to this process. Let us not coagulate this process and have personal interests get in the way of a constitutional office being set up and ensure that people are adequately represented. And let us go with a clear mind that every part of our country is adequately represented.

There are cases where some electorates have almost 200 000 people represented by one Member of Parliament. And in some there are only 30 000 people being represented by one Member of Parliament. There is a huge disparity of representation in our Parliament and that needs to be brought into fair scrutiny. And every section of our country must be adequately represented by a Member of Parliament. We are setting up for the first time in many years and we hope to receive a lot of support from Parliament.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**10/01**

### **Containment of Coronavirus**

**Mr RIMBINK PATO** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My question is related to the Coronavirus and its directed to the Minister for Health and I would ask the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to take note.

Mr Speaker, before asking the question, let me make a short statement and that is, having regards to PNG's foreign policy to connect in a responsible world and PNG's position as a big brother nation to the Pacific Island States in the sense that whatever we decide or whatever we do has the tendency to impact our other smaller Island States of the Pacific.

And there is so much misinformation on the social media and there is innuendos and rumors which have the potential to create more harm and panic in our society particularly, in PNG.

My first question is, would the Minister, in his statement or any statement he makes to this Parliament and to the people of Papua New Guinea, would he confirm the two weeks extent as a matter of fact, the impact or the mortality rate of the Coronavirus globally and in PNG; as I understand is, it is two per cent.

And, the second question is, would the Minister also in his statement consider that, in 2012 the MARS virus mortality rate was 30.4 per cent, the Ebola virus was 40.4 per cent, the Nini Flu was 17.4 per cent in 2019, and SARS in 2012 was 9.6 per cent.

All I am saying, Mr Acting Speaker, is that we have to act responsibility in stating the fact for our people so that we act responsibly in our ability to connect with our multilateral and bilateral friends.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker and I'd like to thank the good Member for Wapenamanda for his questions.

The Marape-Steven Government is all about facts. We don't do anything without facts. Every perspective that we put it out, everything is from our foreign partners, WHO, Republic of China, that is where we get all our information and we put together and push it up.

We don't rely on Facebook or Whatsapp as the strategy or statistic that come in. At the moment, the first question for the good Member for Wapenamanda is that, it is the lowest percentage of virus ever called in the world and its still going and took down at 2 per cent.

At the moment, the WHO states that there are 35 thousand people in China that have been infected with the virus; 35 thousand compared to 1.62 billion population of China. And for China to contain this, is a good indication that we may get some answers very shortly.

Tomorrow I will be making a statement, with all the different percentages compared to the other viruses that we've had in the past. All this will be in my statement and I will present it to Parliament tomorrow. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**11/01**

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Tomorrow, I will be making a statement, with all the different percentages compared to the other viruses that we've had in the past. All this will be in my statement and I will present it to Parliament tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

### **Mining and Forest Reforms**

**Mr CHRIS HAIVETA** – My question is directed to the Honourable Prime Minister.

Mr Prime Minister, I think you will be aware that two years ago when we made reforms on the budget, the Treasurer, the Committees and yourself as then the Finance Minister, implemented exercise sweep. When that was in place, you removed royalties from the landowners of forestry. The money which belonged to the landowners was removed and brought here to be used on the National Budget. Also, this same exercise was done to the royalties of the landowners of Oil & Gas and Mining. My question to you Prime Minister is;

(1) When exactly did you record and audit and give a report to the Parliament on the money used?

Since the money is in your custody, the practices has been that previous government have been benefiting from the landowner's royalties.

(2) Can the Prime Minister work together with the Mining and Petroleum Minister who are trying to make reforms on resource developers working along with the MRDC or with the landowners on royalties?

The Prime Minister has highlighted good reforms he would like to implement so can he give commitment to all the landowners on resources across our country. One of the reforms is to change the *Laws* in forestry, changing the provisions on *Mining Act*, changing provisions within the *Oil & Gas Act* where the money owed to the landowners are not affected and sent to the accounts of the ILG's from various resource owners?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.



**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I thank the Governor for Gulf for asking two very important question.

Firstly, it is not true that the money on royalties were used by the National Government. By law, the money for royalty is for the landowners and for the children so it will go direct to them and I would like the Finance Minister to take note while I elaborate.

In the sweep exercise on Public Money Management Act (PMMA), there might be a possibility that the money from timber went missing, but for Oil & Gas or mining royalties belonging to the landowners are safe. For timber there might be a possibility that an account where under sweep exercise on Public Money Management Act (PMMA) when it comes into effect, they might sweep it into Waigani public accounts so I will ask the Finance Minister to confirm and to come back to inform us through Parliament as to what has happened. If they have mistakenly took it then the rightful thing to do is to restore this money to our landowners but, as far as past Government is concerned up until now, the National Government is not allowed to touch money which is owed to the landowners.

Secondly, looking at possibility of direct funding of money going to the landowners, I think this is consistent with some of the reforms that we want to do and I will give assurance to the Governor and t and landowners.

**12/01**

We are looking at reforms where different layers of government do not stand in the way of our landowners from receiving their entitlements in as far as royalties are concerned.

**AUDITOR GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PERFORMANCE AUDIT  
REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PAYMENTS AND AQUITTALS OF  
SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (DSIP, PSIP, AND LLGSIP FOR THE  
FISCAL YEARS 2013 TO 2016 – PAPER – MOTION FOR ADOPTION**

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, in pursuant to *Section 214* of the *Constitution*, I present:

*Report on Audit Performance of the Effectiveness of Payment and Acquittals of Services Improvement Program DSIP, PSIP, LLG SIP for the Fiscal Years 2013-2016.*

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

That the Report and its recommendation be adopted and debate be adjourned and made an order of the day for a subsequent sitting.

Debate adjourned.

**MINISTRY OF BOUGAINVILLE AFFAIRS – MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

**Sir PUKA TEMU** (Abau-Minister for Bougainville Affairs) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

It is indeed a pleasure and honour for me to once again address the Honourable Parliament a second time since my appointment as Minister for Bougainville Affairs.

I wish to thank the Prime Minister, the Speaker and yourself as the Acting Speaker and all Honourable Members of the Parliament for the support that was given to me in my responsibility to oversee in particular the referendum process that has just been concluded.

Mr Acting Speaker, I also wish to say thank you for allowing the Honourable President of Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government to address the Honourable Parliament. I believe that was a historic moment and also was the first time that a national leader was allowed into this Honourable Parliament and address it. I thank everyone for clearing the processes to allow the President to address our Parliament and in reciprocity their Speaker of the House of Representatives of Bougainville also allowed our Prime Minister to address their Honourable House.

Mr Acting Speaker that basically demonstrated one of my most important priorities which was to build relationships between our leaders. As you are aware there was a memorandum of agreement signed between our Parliament and the House of Representatives of Bougainville for a partnership arrangement. Those activities demonstrated our efforts to continue to maintain and build relationships with one and another.

Mr Acting Speaker, on this second opportunity, I wish to update Parliament on recent developments in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. It has been two months since the referendum result was declared. I must add upfront that the referendum exercise was a historic event which took place from 23 November to 7 December, 2019.

The right to vote included members of communities around Bougainville, Bougainvilleans in other parts of Papua New Guinea, as well as Bougainvilleans in Gizo and Honiara in the Solomon Islands and Cairns and Brisbane in Australia.

### **13/01**

The counting concluded on Wednesday, 11th December 2019. The result showed the Bougainvilleans' resounding preference for Option 2, which is Independence, at 97.7 per cent. Option 1 was for Greater Autonomy and it registered 1.68 per cent. Informal ballot papers recorded 0.61 per cent, or less than 1 per cent.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have just received the Bougainville Referendum Commission's Interim Report of the Referendum.

Generally, the election process went without hiccups and was conducted extremely well. Words from the Report states; "it is our conclusion from what we witnessed ourselves throughout the process through enrolment, polling and scrutiny that it was an orderly process following the laws and regulations provided, and was peaceful. We witnessed voting that was informed, free of fear and accessible".

Other reports from Scrutineers and Observers both international and domestically also gave the general observation that the conduct of the Referendum was very peaceful, and it was not affected by problems that were often experienced during the National General Elections and the Autonomous Bougainville Government Elections.

Furthermore, more voters turned out to cast their ballot papers compared to the other two ABG Elections. The Referendum was conducted to the highest international standards and is an eye opener for Bougainville and Papua New Guinea in the conduct of elections.

In that vein, I would like to thank the Bougainville Referendum Commission and its Chairman, Hon Bertie Ahern, the Chief Referendum Officer, Mr Mauricio Claudio, and everyone who have been involved one way or another in preparing and conducting the Referendum.

Mr Acting Speaker, I will do the rest of my presentation in three (3) broad parts:

(a) I will give a brief background why the Referendum took place, and why the National Parliament is duty-bound to consider the outcome. The National Parliament is not duty-bound to accept the outcome at the first instance. but to receive the result, consider it and make the final decision. I will touch on this below;

(b) I will give a summary of the work of the Joint Post-Referendum Ministerial Taskforce, which has dealt with some of the matters that are anticipated to take place after voting in the Referendum has been completed; and,

(c) Finally, I will briefly highlight some issues that we should address as we come to terms with the Referendum results.

Mr Acting Speaker,

**(A) Why a Referendum Process?**

I feel that I need to explain yet again why a Referendum had to take place. I would like all of us to place ourselves in the shoes of our leaders who were Members of Parliament in the 1990s and into the early 2000s. The monumental task at hand during those years was to identify, agree and do what needed to be done to resolve the Bougainville conflict. Some of our brother Members in Parliament today were present in this House during those tumultuous times.

There were five (5) Prime Ministers who served from the time the crisis started in 1988 to 2001 when the Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed. All of them had to address the unprecedented challenges involved in handling and then resolving the conflict. Furthermore, they had to bear criticisms emanating both from within country and outside. They were subjected to the scrutinising eyes of the media and members of the international community.

**14/01**

Otherwise, some members of the international community were those who also provided significant support for the peace process, which then led to the Bougainville Peace Agreement and its subsequent implementation,

Mr Acting Speaker, the Bougainville Peace Agreement has been given legal effect through the National Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Part XIV and the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville.

The Bougainville Referendum is a constitutional requirement. It is vital that every effort is made to ensure that public awareness is done in relation to the series of events of which it is part, and that relevant Constitutional Laws, are honoured in letter and spirit of the law.

Atrocities were caused on all sides during the conflict. Bougainvillean leaders themselves were divided. Factions appeared among them, complicating efforts to secure peace. The peace talks started in 1997 and efforts eventually led to the signing of the

Bougainville Peace Agreement on 30 August 2001. This also involved the Agreement's enactment in Papua New Guinea's constitutional law in 2002.

Since then, Bougainvillean groups that initially stayed outside the peace process have since joined in. The Pre-Reconciliation Ceremony that took place in Kokopo in November last year is a clear indication of how far we have come from the lost decade of the 1990s when peace appeared to be a distant dream. A National Reconciliation Ceremony is currently being planned for an opportune time hopefully in the near future.

The eventual signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement was welcomed by everyone who wanted to see peace and normalcy restored on Bougainville. The Agreement has been the foundation for ongoing efforts to keep building and sustaining peace. The Referendum is one of the three key pillars that were written into the Peace Agreement: the other two are Autonomy and Weapons Disposal.

#### **(B) Joint-Post Referendum Ministerial Taskforce**

The Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) created the Joint-Post Referendum a Ministerial Taskforce during one of its meetings in 2018. With the assistance of the United Nations as facilitator, the Taskforce was mandated to look at steps moving forward towards the conduct of the Referendum, and also to assess what might be required and recommend the way forward following the declaration of the Referendum result. The Bougainville Peace Agreement provides the foundation for what is to follow. The National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are expected to offer guidance on the way forward.

In doing so, it is important that leaders on all sides pay careful attention to what people are thinking and expecting regarding the future of Bougainville. I would like to state here, from the way I see the situation, that the Referendum result impacted both sides differently; it has united Bougainville, but — at the same time - it has also caused most learned and informed Papua New Guineans, including leaders, to have preference for a unified country.

Therefore, it is absolutely vital that the National Government continues to be closely engaged with Bougainville and be mindful of issues of national importance that hinge on the Referendum outcome. The Autonomous Bougainville Government and other Bougainvillean leaders — likewise - are answerable to the people of Bougainville. It is, therefore, also important that they scrutinise carefully the options that would be best for their side and Papua New Guinea as they give close and careful consideration to the most appropriate steps moving forward.

Mr Acting Speaker, The Joint-Post Referendum Ministerial Taskforce has paid close attention to identifying issues that need to be addressed in preparing the way forward. Critical issues to be addressed following the vote include the following.

40 Days Period: a period of 40 days was made available following the declaration of the Referendum result for anyone who wished to challenge in court the Referendum process and outcome, that period ended on the 20th January 2020 without any expressed opposition to the Referendum exercise and the Referendum outcomes.

## **15/01**

In this regard, I would like to remind Honourable Members that a consensus was reached during the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting in March 2019 that any legal issues that were envisaged to arise out of the Referendum were to be put on hold until after the Referendum result had been announced. This was important as court cases pending judgment could impede the completion of the vote before the deadline agreed in the Bougainville Peace Agreement, which was June 2020.

**Consultation:** a consultation process will take place between a National Team, representing the National Government and the people of Papua New Guinea, and a Bougainville Team representing the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the people of Bougainville.

Mr Acting Speaker, The Joint-Post Referendum Ministerial Taskforce has been discussing the consultation process since 2018, particularly in relation to how the groups on both sides were to be organised, how expectations from both sides were to be addressed, and how associated issues were to be progressed. When work commenced at the start of the year, the staff concerned from relevant national government offices began working on areas that were required to advance the post-Referendum matters. The first was to have structural arrangement of how groups that would participate in the consultation process from both sides were to be organised. What I can say for now is that given the seriousness and overwhelming vote for independence in Bougainville's Referendum, we must prepare well and be constantly alert for the steps that are to be taken on the way forward. In short, we must constantly keep matters of national importance in mind.

Second, much of what will take place in the consultation process will be matters for the JSB to handle too. The first JSB meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in the first week of March this year. An agenda is being prepared for that meeting. Parliament will be

kept abreast of matters discussed at the JSB too. Generally, it can be expected that the consultation process will entail a 'give-and-take' approach in which the two Governments are likely to become involved in a process of mutual concessions and compromises as discussions take place on how exactly to address the outcome of the vote and the National Parliament's final decision.

Mr Acting Speaker, How long should the consultation process take place? There is no legal timeframe specified anywhere. Therefore, it is difficult to readily gauge a length of time for the consultation process. Otherwise, a tentative length of time can be planned for. It is an unprecedented event in our country, and it really depends on how issues earmarked for discussion are advanced and resolved. Additional time might also be required to address fresh considerations. In looking and preparing the way ahead, we cannot readily draw lessons from other countries where referendums have been held. Some like the Republic of Ireland took several years for the parties to agree and come to terms with settling issues that they were dealing with. Others have, unfortunately, given rise to fresh differences - and even violence. This is exactly the opposite of what the Bougainville Peace Agreement commits all the parties to, and that is, to keep building lasting peace by peaceful means.

### **Ratification**

Mr Acting Speaker, ratification, as defined in the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Constitutional Laws, which give it legal effect, means that the final decision on the outcome of the Bougainville Referendum will be made by the National Parliament. As already explained, this will follow the consultations between the two Governments. My statement today is not actually presenting the referendum results, it's not that process of the referendum result will be consulted over, and then I as the Minister for Bougainville Affairs will then bring it to the Honourable House, If the two Governments agree, the agreed outcome will be presented to the National Parliament.

### **16/01**

In the unfortunate event that the two Governments do not agree, the procedures for resolving disputes such as consultation, mediation, arbitration, and, in the worst case, reference to the courts will apply. During the various trips that we took to Bougainville to carry out awareness programs on the Referendum, questions were raised why authorisation must be sought from the PNG National Parliament to ratify the decisions from the consultation processes. This point has been echoed again after the Referendum by certain

prominent Bougainvilleans. With the vote for independence at 98 percent, is Parliament's ratification process necessary?

The straightforward answer is that the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Constitutional Laws that give its legal effect recognise the National Parliament as the highest legal authority in Papua New Guinea, and that Bougainville is still part of Papua New Guinea. The two Governments' Consultation Teams can discuss, seek to resolve and make recommendations on issues concerning Bougainville's political future. However, the National Parliament will make the final decision. As I have already emphasised, Parliament's involvement is clearly acknowledged in the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the implementing laws, as well as it provides both the context and the final authority for determining the eventual outcome of the process of which the referendum is a part.

### **(C) Important Relevant Issues**

Mr Acting Speaker, finally, I would like to raise certain issues that Members might want to consider in relation to the outcome of Bougainville's Referendum. I will do so under the ambit of the two Options that appeared on the Ballot Paper.

Option 1 - Greater Autonomy. The current autonomous status of Bougainville is already higher than many other autonomous regions or parts of other countries.

In fact, the four (4) major areas that Bougainville does not have authority over right now are those that are normally reserved for the status of an independent country:

- a. Foreign Affairs
- b. Central Bank and Foreign Exchanges
- c. Defence Force and Border Security
- d. International Immigration

Considering the present push for other provinces to have greater autonomy, it is important to emphasise that Bougainville is a one-off case. Bougainville autonomy is not the product of a discussion or plan concerned with options for restructuring government. Rather, it is part of a peace process. Other provinces pursuing autonomy will, respectfully, be addressed differently.

Option 2 — Independence: independence literally means being free from being governed or ruled by another country. For Bougainville to separate from Papua New Guinea, as the definition suggests, it would entail a significant step for a range of critical issues. Even so, it is useful to bear in mind the diverse forms of independence that small island states, in particular, currently enjoy – from sharing such important arrangements as currency;



institutions such as courts of appeal and universities; special arrangements for freedom of movement for citizens, border security, and others. In short, it is of the utmost importance that the two Governments continue to engage whatever the outcome of the consultations. Bougainville and Papua New Guinea will be neighbours forever. We will continue to have many shared interests. It is accordingly important that we pay close attention to the interests, options and issues involved.

In this regard, an important consideration for Honourable Members to bear in mind is that the *National Constitution* does not provide for separation or secession of a part of the country. This means that if the National Parliament were to agree to ratify the Referendum outcome in favour of independence, the *National Constitution* would have to be amended to allow for it to be granted.

Mr Acting Speaker, we can discuss and debate this sensitive issue for all we want. But, as I said earlier, we must be mindful of the fact that the National Government was signatory to the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

## **17/01**

The Referendum vote is in favour of independence. However, if Honourable Members feel compelled not to give legal effect to that outcome, the right place to express that view is through the consultation process in which both Governments will engage.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do not need to inform you that what any Member of Parliament says can be interpreted in a thousand ways. We do not want any Bougainvillean voter to think that his or her preference on the ballot paper was expressed in vain.

Our overriding objective must be to honour the letter and spirit of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and implementing laws as well as allow for concerted efforts to continue building and sustaining lasting peace by peaceful means.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to comment on certain issues relating to Bougainville that have been reported since the Referendum was concluded. First, views were expressed in late 2019 that it would be worthwhile if the Autonomous Bougainville Government Elections normally scheduled March and end in June for this year be deferred for a certain period of time so that the consultation process can start immediately after the Referendum, and there will also be no delay in other related activities. The latest out of Bougainville is that the deferral of the election will no longer be pursued.

Second, it is now envisaged that the consultation process will start after the mid-year ABG Elections. The writs for ABG election will be issued around the third week of March this year and to be return around June, and like all incoming government, they have to settled in the GSB that we are planning for 6<sup>th</sup> March next month, we are anticipating to agree a beginning of the consultation process around July or August this year and hopefully the two leaders will then announce after the GSB meeting like all the JSP meeting. There will be a communique that the two leaders; the President and our Prime Minister will sign to map out the way forward on how the consultation process will be handled after the ABG Election in July.

Mr Acting Speaker, I hope the development that have outlined have given some way forward and at the expectations of all Honourable Members.

Thank you for your attention, God bless the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

**Mr MICHEAL NALI** (Mendi – Minister for Works) – I move –

That Parliament take note of the Paper.

Mr Acting Speaker, I wish to make few comments on the Ministerial statement presented by the Minister for Bougainville Affairs.

Mr Acting Speaker, from what I know since the day I was born, I would not derivative the ability at that time as a child to think that something of this sort will happen but as I grew up to be young man and now as a father, I find it very difficult to see this country going through a this process like this. I wish I did not exist so I would not experience this kind of story, process or dreams of mixed feelings. There is only one country I know and it is PNG. That is the country I know and born into and the country that I will die in.

**18/01**

Mr Acting Speaker, I'm very saddened that we have to go through such situation. First of all, I want to remind the Parliament that when the Marape-Steven Government took office, most of us sat here and we did not expect what statement the Prime Minister would make at that time but he made a blunt statement to "Take Back PNG". He also made many other remarks like, "A rich black Christian country", knowing very well that not only black

people or not only Christians live in this country but I am pretty sure that he knew what he was talking about.

Mr Acting Speaker, this crisis that occurred in Bougainville, it is not a crisis that any Papua New Guinean would dream of but we had a crisis and that is a fact. It was something that should have been a law and order matter but it had escalated into a war that was amongst its own people, the Police and the Defence Forces. This Crisis caused a vacuum where children were deprived of education and lacked government services to reach them.

Mr Acting Speaker, I feel that the result from this ABG Election is quite shocking but it is a result from the frustration of the people of Bougainville. I would like to thank the Parliamentary Committees that have deliberated on the Bougainville Issue, especially to honourable William Powi, the former Government and also the former Prime Minister, the current Prime Minister and his Government, Mr William Samb, Transport Minister and Sir Puka Temu.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do not know why the Prime Minister appointed Sir Puka Temu, a very senior politician and a former public servant to lead this Committee to look into the issue of Referendum on Bougainville and at a time when we desperately need someone of this calibre? I would like to congratulate him for the good work he has done

Mr Acting Speaker, many people think that Papua New Guinea is a simple country to run but it tell you it is not easy because we have so many different languages, cultures and traditions all put together. I believe that by God's Grace and the good attitudes of our people unities us as one country.

Mr Acting Speaker, I have only one fear. We were under the Australian Government, then we got self-government and then we moved into provincial governments and then there was another reform and now I am hearing Referendum. Referendum is good but like I mentioned earlier, we have so many regions, beliefs and some even have resources while others don't and they complain.

I was once on the left side of the Speaker and the Prime Minister cut the Budget and my electorate did not receive any royalties even though Southern Highlands and Hela are together. 'Mi pap blo pig! How yu katim pik blong mi yu givim ap bun ikam long mi'.

My Province was a resource rich but I was not accorded the budget. This is something that is very frustrating. I think the Bougainvilleans went through something like that and is why they got fed-up and they retaliated the way they did. We must do thing the proper way with respect and honesty.

**19/01**

We are now in February 2020. There is a form going around, it maybe regarding insurance and when I want to find out my age, I realize that I am getting old. During the holidays, I thought I was still young but my eldest son had brought his girlfriend to the house, which made me realize I was not getting any younger. I asked him who gave him permission to bring his girlfriend home and he told me, shut up dad, I am ready and old enough.

And faced with such situation, I am put into a very difficult situation. What sort of decisions are we going to make after the referendum? I have my decisions but they are mind and I will not share it on the Floor of Parliament, until the time is right. I have been to small Buka when we accompanied the Prime Minister to attend the joint meeting between the Government and the government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The Prime Minister had invited us to partake in that meeting. I contributed but I was not prepared to cry but the tears just fell freely from my eyes as I wept for Bougainville.

When I told the Bougainvilleans that they wanted to be alone, I shed tears because in my heart I knew they were my brothers and sisters. I wept for a good reason, because when Bougainville goes away, other provinces too will want autonomy. We all have to start thinking to work together. Our leaders now and the leaders of the future. We are only a few years away from the next General Elections in 2022. There will be a new breed of politicians. While others will remain, many may not make a comeback, but the issue of keeping the country together should be of uttermost importance to us. The issue of Bougainville is too important for this country.

As a government, and the both sides of this House, as we are aware of the wishes of the people of Bougainville. From now until the time we give referendum or when it comes to Parliament for us to vote on this issue, we have to do the right thing. We are Melanesians, our brothers and sisters, we have to do the right thing. I believe that the result of this vote that is on the Floor and that which we are debating is also a result of the contribution how many governments have come and gone, that have neglected the Bougainvilleans.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do not want this thing to happen. We must start now and make sure we discuss ways of working together, build infrastructure and assist Bougainville and be as close as possible with Bougainville, because the day we decide on Bougainville another group will come. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**20/01**

**Mr WILLIAM SAMB** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for the opportunity to speak. Firstly, I thank the Minister, one of our seniors for bringing in this very informative and important paper.

Secondly, thanks to the people of Bougainville for showing maturity against all critiques and all forms of negativities, they have maintained peace.

From the time this agreement was signed up till the conduction of the referendum. Also, I'd like to say thank you to the people of Bougainville for showing maturity.

One of the things is that, we Papua New Guineans used to generalize things and mentioned that people living there are of the same type but, I think they have shown critiques wrong and they have not at one stage use those so called to use up services. If there is anything, it is an act of law and order.

Secondly, Mr Deputy Speaker, I agree with the Works Minister's statement. My experience there was that, people frustrated because of lack of government preference.

I don't want to deal on the negatives but I challenge our government, our Prime Minister that what ever is due for Bougainville has to be given. Not necessarily have to be on hold but, if it's coming in portions on regular basis, people will be happy.

My experience here is this, when we talk on one thing, and I challenge Planning, Works Department, Treasury, and Finance you listen. All your secretaries; secretary for; Works, Planning, Treasury, and Finance.

Money, they budgeted for Bougainville, don't misuse it. I remember a decision we made to get K10 million. It took us running around a lot of place. I have to go and sit in the Planning office to get the money.

I don't need to do that. I am challenging all the Ministers and their secretaries to make sure whatever things that is due for Bougainville must come and go to them.

Bougainville is not like Goilala. In Arawa, I told them, when you come to Goilala, you will literally cry. They have everything there. There is no excuse. Plantation already there, all the resources there. We just need to support.

It just needs consistency commitment from our part to raise those resources. Things should be ok.

My last challenge is that, I mentioned it here on the Floor of Parliament its recorded. ABG, Members of Bougainville, please let our people and the government know as well.

**21/01**

So hopefully these wages get to the ABG Government and whatever the government get that are given to you, please! it is not our savings account, spend it but report back. There are reports done by the wall bank the performance of the peace agreement and lots of things they talk about are these areas. Minister, we have to address these issues with our counterparts in Bougainville and make address to these issues forward.

The last point, Mr Speaker, I usually talk about important taskforce. My experienced is that, those Ministers who are supposed to be in that taskforce are unfunctional so every time we need to send secretary or some officers, this is important according to our commitment so the Minister must be up to date accordingly because those meetings must be immediately address according to the Ministry level but not the cuscus to take it to and from, we don't have time, so Minister, please give the circulars in advance so there shouldn't be any excuses. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr WILLIAM POWI** (Southern Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker for recognizing me.

Firstly, I would like to wish you a belated happy new year for the first time of 2020 going forward and it's good to your see faces again as leaders of this nation.

Secondly, I would like to commend the Minister for Bougainville affairs as one of the senior Ministers and senior leader of this country that you have taken on board this important task, it's a calling and we all have confidence that you took on board this important Ministry at that time when the whole country is moving into some political transitions.

Things doesn't just happen for nothing, but has purposes, so thank you, I commend you according to your leadership. I also commend Prime Minister, Honorable James Marape with his associate, Deputy Prime Minister. In some stage last year, I made a point in Parliament and as young as you are, vibrant and intelligent as you are, go take the NEC to Bougainville and sit down with one of the fathers of the Nation. Although the timing was not convenient and the referendum had to pass by, you did the right thing, and I commend this Government.

I also want say that there are lots of places in the world that referendum had to be conducted, like North Ireland protestant and the Catholics, it is an ongoing thing. Scotland, where the Scottish wanted to break away from the UK and recently we also have experiences

South Sudan and also in United Kingdom, the British wanted to pull out from the European Union.

In those instances, referendum questions are in most times and in most cases, the way I found out, a tailor to sewed those in authority and a lot of times, the outcome of the referendum are often manipulated. My Honorable leaders, we stand in support for what the Minister has said, and he is Honorable Puka Temu, we stand is this country to see referendum that has been free, fair and the results are clearly articulated. I said to be corrected but so far, the conduct of referendum in this part of hemisphere stands out very clear. We have achieved a lot mile stone in the national community.

In terms of referendum, the government and those in authority used to manipulate it to suit their purposes.

## **22/01**

On this note this important matter of Bougainville the Government must move the debate until tomorrow and let the country see. This is one of the most important matter in this country. We must not close debate now, I suggest we need to articulate the issue debate this way forward because this and I commend Member for Mendi Michael Nali for this bold passionate stand. We the young leaders of this country we must protect the independence of Papua New Guinea and the way going forward. This is a big challenge brought to us as we were going through transition and I also commend the government for taking a very mature approach in dealing and addressing this very important matter. I also thank God that he brought the father of the nation to come to Parliament and assure us that whichever way the results of the referendum goes. The final outcome will be a negotiated outcome. That's true right? That is the hope we already have, it will be a negotiated outcome. That's where all leaders must take this turn very seriously because this is a greater challenge facing the unity, facing the future of this country.

The conduct of the Bougainville peace agreement signifies that Papua New Guinea through the history on important matter of we can craft the solutions ourselves and conclude it. Let me qualify this my brothers and honorable members of parliament, Mr Acting Speaker. The Peace Agreement inside Bougainville in Papua New Guinea solution has three things that we are already clear on

(1) Autonomous transfer of Government. That's ongoing, we have not completed everything but we have achieved that as part of the peace agreement.

(2) The results of the referendum signifies that PNG has brought about and implementation of the peace agreement to deal with one of PNG's greatest challenge.

So that completes, in my view and from the way I've been given the exposure to understand the Bougainville process. The referendum outcome whether they get independence or greater autonomy we would have completed the Peace agreement. This is true? We have completed what we have agreed to do. Now the most important process is, even the father of the nation Dr John Momis as I speak he would know. He was the one who drafted the constitution of this country, He knows that there is no provision for succession. This is true? You read the constitution there is no provision for succession. Knowing very well that they have a dead end in that pursuit. The referendum results which I don't want to talk about it now because its going to be a negotiated process. That is already a buffer for us. I think we need to harmonize these consultations between the Independent State of PNG and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Knowing that as Sir Puka said, we need to articulate the way forward. We have heard the people spoken. They want independence but the constitution does not allow for that. Thank you to the Prime Minister, together we would like to acknowledge Sir Peter Ipatas, Governor of East Sepik and Governor for Oro. I thank you for rushing you and thank you for the greater interest you had you were not prepared when there was a telephone call made by me. But we are young and this is our country. Like the father of the country whom Sir Puka spoke to, senior Michael Nali Minister for works spoke to him.

## **23/01**

This is our country this is where we will belong to and we will be in the future until the Lord Jesus Christ comes to get us so there are important matters on National Unity and Bougainville, I felt that it was not just the Prime Ministers calling but a calling of us leaders of this country and what we do with Bougainville and its future determines the future of this country.

So, I would like to say thank you for calling you all even though I knew that the Prime Minister was in New Ireland, and to deliver a message when the President of Bougainville was returning the writ here in Port Moresby at the Governor-Generals Office there was a vacuum and I saw that the Prime Minister needed to be supported by some of these Governors because this matters relates to sub-national government and going forward. I thank those Governors who attended this occasion on a short notice.



But, our people got surprised when the Prime Minister said that he was taking their outcome of the Referendum in my bag and I will take time to consult with the people of Papua New Guinea on what you have spoken, they were invigorated and the Lord was there. I was wondering how the Prime Minister was going to deliver this and I was in fear that they will stone us and I will have to run for my life. No, this is not funny it is something of importance.

So, I say thank you to God that the people embraced us invigorated when the Prime Minister spoke and I take it back to the people of Papua New Guinea. He himself gave them the economic empowerment and that was another jubilation and we felt more confident. But, what I am trying to say is that the onus is on us so let us consult openly in the hearts of the current government where I see genuineness with the realignment of the Autonomous Government and there is positive progress and we will come out with a negotiated outcome. So, let us be confident and allow God to intervene in this process. We as leaders have this national duty to protect the Independence and the unity of this country moving forward.

So, I am in support of the statement of the Minister for Works which is very passionate and I thank you for the heart you have but I propose to Parliament to extend this debate to tomorrow to allow the media to capture what we leaders really think about on this matter because it is a matter of importance. What is the negotiated outcome? This is my interest and this is everyone interest as well.

This is a great moment and I thank you. After I came back from Bougainville I was in jubilation, I had doubts but you restored my doubts. Where you are at this time is a greater calling for a man like you with a great heart so you need to take the challenge and move forward, it is the heart that matters.

Thank you

**Mr SAM AKOITAI** (Central Bougainville) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to debate a little bit on this Ministerial Statement that the Minister for Bougainville Affairs has presented.

Mr Acting Speaker, firstly, I would like to thank the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, other ministers and the Members of this House for understanding the issue of Bougainville and allowing this Referendum to take place for the people of Bougainville. I would also like to thank the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and the Minister for Transport who played very important roles in this process.

**24/01**

I do not want to repeat everything relating to the conduct of this referendum but I support the call that this referendum occurred. Many times we do not talk about it because we often regarded it as a sensitive issue and we do not talk about it. And then all of a sudden, when the referendum has been done, we wanted to talk about it.

So I support the call that this is an important matter. Allow debate on this issue but also taking into consideration that the process is still incomplete. The process that needs to be completed, the minister has already alerted us in his Ministerial Statement. While we make statements, Let me remind honourable members here, Mr Speaker, this referendum did not just happen. It occurred from something that has always been there in Bougainville. I always talk about our people from Bougainville and then later realized that this crisis was not created in 1989. This crisis was actually created in 1899, long before Papua New Guinea became independent, long before any one of us were born. Let me remind this house that we are being born into a crisis. A crisis that we did not create. A crisis that was created by somebody else. Who was it? It was the Germans and the British who decided to exchange islands. That is why this issue has arisen. The issue was created when the British wanted to exchange with Western Samoa for Bougainville to be part of German New Guinea.

So every prime minister that has come, every Members of Parliament that has come, any citizens of Papua New Guinea that has come, we have been born into a crisis. Let me remind this house that, that referendum happens after a long process where it was always here. Many times I heard people talking that the reason causing them to fight was the Panguna mine. It's true. There was a couple of times when I became a victim when I was working when the villagers threatened me with a gun. I told them I was from Wobunai, if they wanted to fight with me I'm not scared to fight back.

Sorry I talked about this, but I wanted to remind us that before we go back and talked about this issue. There was even a delegation including the Bougainville President Dr John Momis that was sent to New York by Bougainvilleans to present the Bougainville State to the League of Nations in the 60s.

**25/01**

I want to remind you people that before that the issue of the independence was after World War 2, the Japanese had asked the people of Buka whether they want to stay with

Australia or with Germany or with England or with us but they said no, they want to become independent.

And the advice from the Japanese was, well if you want to be independent you got to have the population. That's the reason why there was a society established in Buka to actually increase to population.

And then, in the 60s, to cover mainland Bougainville, a society was aggregated or an association was created on mainland Bougainville that was Navita Kunavitu that was to cover Bougainville.

Now, to cover the rest of Papua New Guinea, they have established Mucas Association. So, I want to remind Members that this independent movement was not from now where we are talking about. It was there before.

Now let me remind this Honorable House some events that took place. In 1975 the Bougainvilleans were upset over two Bougainvilleans who were accidentally killed in Goroka when they ran over a child.

When they were trying to help the boy in the hospital as one of them was a doctor, the locals chopped them into pieces and killed them.

When the two were killed, the Bougainvilleans said, "see, every time we used to say that Papua New Guinea does not want us".

That's why they went around every district in Bougainville and burn down all the buildings in the districts. They also burned the Australian flag too.

In 1975, what then happened was that all Bougainvilleans mobilized again declare Bougainville independence on the first of September, 1975 before PNG gets its independence in 16<sup>th</sup> September.

After that, for only about 13 years later, the issue of Panguna occurred. The compromise in 1975 was the provincial government system. You understand the four Members of Parliament from Bougainville resigned from this House in protest against an amendment or have seen that some provision in the constitution were removed where it allowed for provincial government.

That's why that event took place and provincial government system come on and the Bougainville was the first province that was established.

And money, it was best run by provincial government until all the other provincial governments came and spoil this system and the amendments kept on going and spoiled all the system.

I find some people who make comments about the provincial government system that was in before.

I tell you, I used to think that they must be ghost but, that system was actually allowed for Bougainville within Papua New Guinea.

Then there was a fighting and the Panguna issue spark off the issue of independence. I must tell you, not everybody benefited from the Panguna mine.

Many Bougainvilleans take up guns and against the national government because all the money was coming from Bougainville and develop other parts of Papua New Guinea and did not go there. Or else, did not go to every parts of Papua New Guinea. It used to develop only Waigani.

That's why I used to say, Waigani is a single, Waigani is a dead sea where it brings in fresh water from all over Papua New Guinea but it doesn't give back life.

## **26/01**

So, let us think properly because a lot of change is happening through our Prime Minister but, I want to see real change. There a lot of workers here in Waigani because, they know that is where the money is. If you divert it back to other Provinces when you are doing other programs, the public servants should be out in the Provinces. That is what the Reform Provincial System suppose to do to bring back public servants into the Provinces.

By the way, when the fight occurred Bougainvillians had lost over 20 thousand people. I must tell each of us here that we have good service men here in Papua New Guinea which are the Policemen and the Soldiers. They have conducted themselves with good behavior. When the crisis started then there was a seize fire and they withdrew and when they came back, they came back as changed service men of this country.

It is true that there was chaos and huge damage done. The three forces, I continue to say that none of these sections are angels. We all created a problem one way or the other towards the hardship of Bougainville people, but when the security forces or the Papua New Guinea Authorities withdrew from Bougainville, I think the state should be thankful that Bougainvillians have not taken this matter to higher institutions to put the National Government in court for withdrawing the service of the Government from Bougainville. You denied the rights of the citizens for protection and you left the people out there in need of assistance. So, when you look at it, we had the right to protection under constitution of Papua

New Guinea, but, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea denied my people from protection.

Whilst you are making statements about the unity of this nation, this country deserted me. This country deserted my people. You just imagine we are left out there without a father. We were living on the hands of the criminals. Criminals that were let out of the prison. So, please use your wisdom.

In 1990, when the security forces withdrew Bougainvillians mobilised and they declared a second UDI on the 17 May, 1990. When you look at this two UDI, they happened without any basis. I am just warning this House that, there might be a third UDI. That third UDI will have the stronger base which is the referendum result that has happened in Bougainville. Do not let my people become criminals again. Just now we are coming out to live peacefully. I am appealing to you. I've voted against my people to keep Bougainville within Papua New Guinea but, who am I?

**27/01**

I voted against my people to keep Bougainville in PNG but who am I to keep my people from their decision. Who is Beldan Namah? With due respect to the Honourable Opposition Leader, he also fought against my people but who is he to keep them from their decision.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am telling you that we need to use wisdom to come up with a better judgement. We must watch the language that we use when discussing this issue. I support the Governor for Southern Highlands who thinks that this issue must be debated. I stand not to make comments but to remind every body of the sensitivity of the issue before they engage in their debates. Bougainville now has a strong base to go for the third UDI. Lets not make it that way. Let the National Government with the team from the Bougainville Government sit down and come up with something that will be acceptable with both peoples.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS –  
ALTERATION OF HOUR OF SITTING.**

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the Parliament sitting beyond 5 p.m. this day.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** (Tari-Pori – Prime Minister) – Mr Acting Speaker, this is a very important discussion and I beg Parliament to sleep over this statement by the senior Minister in order for us to present a very balanced debate in the next few days of sitting. This is so that the people of Bougainville know that we have heard them and we are giving them fair consideration in what they expressed through the ballots.

Mr Acting Speaker, the issue on Bougainville is not a light matter. As confirmed by the Member for Central Bougainville the Bougainville people's view on things predates our independence and goes into history. Having said this we have now arrived at the juncture in our nation's history for this generation of leaders to deal with this matter that stirs us in our face. This is something amidst many challenges that we have this is one I rank as the greatest challenge of the union of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

There can be no greater challenge than the challenge that faces us in maintaining sanctity of the union of our Independent Statehood. The onus is now on us to seriously consider how we can find the balance both in giving respect to view held by Bougainvilleans for self-determination against the most sacred responsibility we have in maintaining unity as responsible Papua New Guinean leaders within the context of the constitutional right we have as a country and gained in 1975.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is no easy fit but I will subscribe to the view that Melanesian consensus can find the sweet spot in which their intention for self-determination is not harmed but our interest to preserve national unity is maintained.

Mr Acting Speaker, the referendum was secured at the back of 2001 Peace Agreement. The same agreement clearly encapsulate the view that the referendum is not binding. This Parliament which is the highest authority in this country has the last piece of say in as far as the conclusion of Bougainville Peace Agreement 2001 is concerned.

This Parliament will be given an opportunity to decide on what must take place in Bougainville at its appropriate timing. But in between referendum and the time in which

Parliament decides, there is a period of silence. In the hind side let me thank those who sat on the table in 2001 to stitch what is now an historic and fundamental document called the Bougainville Peace Agreement 2001. Therein lies the wisdom of the leaders at that time. In that spot between referendum and when the matter is brought to Parliament, it gives opportune time for leaders of both sides of the Parliament to sit down together. As I said and let me qualify myself Parliament must find a sweet spot that embraces their notion of self-determination and with within the context of union as we have today on what is called Papua New Guinea.

Mr Acting Speaker, having said this and I believe in my heart of hearts that as leaders to leaders, government to government, people to people, we will find that sweet spot. I bring you all to the moment I arrived with my delegation in Bougainville only a few days after the vote took place.

Mr Acting Speaker, as greater advice coming through that I must not go to Bougainville because people have voted for independence therefore what can I say to them.

**28/01**

But I thought, right from the outset, proper context of what has taken place must be clearly spelt out and we arrest what could possibly be a disarray of thoughts that will emanate in Bougainville at the back of an overwhelming vote for Independence.

So, myself and the Honourable Grand Chief Sir Peter Ipatas, the Honourable Garry Juffa, the Honourable Allan Bird, and the Honourable William Powi representing the governors of the regions of our country as well as the Honourable John Rosso and the Honourable William Samb repenting Members in Cabinet descended into Aropa and travelled by road into Arawa to have honest but frank conversations with our citizens in Bougainville. Giving respect to the fact that they voted but also allowing them to appreciate that the *Constitution* reigns supreme and not one single Member of Parliament, Prime Minister also have within his or her discretion the ability to infringe on the constitutional right of our country.

So we arrived and we and we spoke and to our satisfaction the people of Bougainville we decent. The people of Bougainville were kind. The people of Bougainville were tolerant, Mr Acting Speaker.

We were met by a host of leaders as well as our citizens in Bougainville. They were welcoming. And I ask every Member of Parliament to please be totally careful. No amount of

money we give, no amount of care we render, no amount of prayers we utter will adequately compensate Bougainville for the loss they felt since 1988.

And so every utterance that we make and every commitment that we make must be considered far less than the loss they felt. And you could only hear, Mr Acting Speaker, the voice of Honourable Sam Akoitai as he spoke this afternoon. The pain is this deep, the scar is permanent, and the burden is too burdensome. So this Parliament has a due care to find the balance between honouring their desire to the fullest or to the highest and to consider national unity as we discussed and find a balance.

They respected me as Prime Minister of the country and their Prime Minister when I sat on the podium with their president and we spoke to them, acknowledging their votes but giving respect to the intention of the 2001 Peace Agreement.

President Momis, let me pay him the greatest of respect. None of us can sit at his seat claiming that we have qualifications that he possessed. He spoke in total dignity finding the fine balance between the aspirations and hopes of his people within the context of national unity. I felt, Mr Acting Speaker, to some extent, he stood totally exposed to as a leader under the greatest microscope.

## **29/01**

And he also bears the title of the eldest statesman of Bougainville. And he also bears the title as the link between Bougainville and our country and our Parliament, having spoken in this Parliament, in his capacity as President of Bougainville.

He was the key man in ensuring that Bougainville maintains sanctity and Papua New Guinea was given an opportunity to maintain unity in the context of the war that took place. But notwithstanding the fact that respect must also be given to Bougainvilleans at the time. From the youngest in the crowd and throughout the region and to the oldest. And while they proudly wave their flag of the autonomous region, they also allow the flag of Papua New Guinea to fly.

Mr Acting Speaker, right in front of the stage, as we stood in the oval in Arawa, the two flags were flying side by side. There was a moment in which a sacred cultural act took place. The Hube group came in and I was a little bit apprehensive, I thought at that moment they would pull the PNG flag down and present it back to me; because they surrounded the two flags. But by the grace, they invited me to walk down and that was a great symbolic act. They invited me to walk down and both myself, the traditional leaders, the youth and the children,



we all rallied around the two flags. And they asked me to go back to the stage. So not all hope is lost, but we must continue to give respect to the different circumstances that Bougainvilleans have faced that gave rise to where we are today.

I encourage Parliament to talk and discuss issues and for us the way forward at this time, where I commend the work of the Minister responsible for Bougainville Affairs, Sir Puka Temu, for his wisdom. And we will work with the leaders on the island. There is a Joint Supervisory Body meeting that will take place on March 6, 2020 in Arawa. We will set the next pace in which we will advance this conversation. Personally, as head of this government, I subscribe to a transitional arrangement that must be put in place, whilst waiting for what will happen in time.

When I spoke in Arawa on that day, I did indicate to them that this is not a quick event but a process that will take place over time. And one indication that I put to them is that, whilst they have voted, Papua New Guinea must secure the interest of greater PNG, by having the conversation with the rest of PNG, that no one must have conversation on autonomy that leads to succession. We heard the Minister of Works, indicating the possibility of further disintegration.

### **30/01**

I told our friends in Bougainville, this matter has now gone beyond just a conversation in the Region of Bougainville. It has now transcended Bougainville and affects the entire fabric of the unity of our country.

So, before we come back to entertaining the issue of Bougainville and the vote that took place, I as Prime Minister, it is prudent and responsible of me to secure the secure the safety of the rest of our country first. That, in my view precedes further conversation on Bougainville. We must secure the rest of our country, the rest of our country must remain together and once that loyalty, affirmation and confirmation has taken place we will then be in a position to look into Bougainville in totality.

And so the JSB we'll have in Bougainville on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March will set some indication as to what will happen into the future, including discussions on the government. Lest we forget, they voted against autonomy and Bougainville Autonomous Government, their Parliament has taken up votes to vote and not defer elections, but vote for a fourth government will take place, their government on the island. We will give them full support.

But I believe what form, what role and what shape of government and what role they play is something that the next JSB and its agenda will set the course so that Bougainvilleans know we continue to give respect to them and greater respect in the context of self-determination expressed through the vote that took place.

So that JSB is very important and I appeal through this and I ask the formal media, if you don't write it well I will use my Facebook to write also. I appeal to the media to convey the correct message to Bougainvilleans, and everyone.

We are concerned. We note what they voted but we will process it within the context to secure the rest of the country to not also go down the path of Bougainville. We secure our country from entertaining the thought of discussing autonomy within the context of secession and we will also deal with Bougainville and giving respect to self-determination.

Mr Acting Speaker, may I inform this House, when I was in Arawa I funnelled back to them, I passed back to them the remaining portion of shares that the national government was keeping in the Bougainville Copper Limited. This was against many conflicting interests and advices, mostly from Bougainvilleans themselves. Some wanted us to still keep them but I said, I subscribe to full autonomy means self-determination on their own. So if the resource belongs to you, I transfer it back to you. These includes our will to transfer full authority in other areas of resource harvests, marine resources, terrestrial resources, human resources and so as we convened JSB the fullest transfer of every resource harvest that is found in Bougainville will be transferred back to them for them to start the course of economic independence. It's the same as what we are trying to do here.

I said, economic independence must be an important indicator for your preparedness and readiness to discuss and go down the path of political independence. And so to start off those, in good faith we've transferred the entire share of Bougainville and I said something good that the previous government under the previous Prime Minister had a personal hand in it. That 17 per cent of that is meant for those in Panguna Mining Lease Area, I said I will honour that intention. It is a good intention but everything is funnelled back to you, government on the ground for you to transfer to those landowners concerned.

So, in good faith, Mr Acting Speaker, I am alluding to and informing the Parliament. We are doing everything possible to ensure that they have self-determination at the highest level but within the context of national union within the context of what is called Papua New Guinea as it is today.

And so those are work in progress. Our citizens on the Island of Bougainville are strong resilient people. They appreciate the context in which I was speaking and they've gone back to work.

But I note the important statement that the Member for Central Bougainville had and I give assurance to the Member for Central Bougainville. Your issue on law and order is something both governments must work to address. The Papua New Guinea Government has the scar that any misfires on the ground, we carry the burden and the blame. And so I've indicated to Bougainvillean's government on the ground, you must equip your own law enforcement agencies, ensure that they are on standby on the ground to contain lawlessness. Lawlessness is prevalent all over our country, including Bougainville and I am happy our national leader on the island has recognised the need for intervention into the law and justice sector.

### **31/01**

And so we will work hand in hand to set the next direction.

The JSB that is coming will give indication to respect to votes of the people of Bougainville as to how they perceive their future must be, again, within the context national unity we will have those frank and honest discussions.

I encourage every international agencies out there that Bougainvilleans respect that are conduit to which suppose and assistant on the island must come to Waigani or through Port Moresby and that respect and decorum must always be maintained.

I told Bouganivilleans in Arawa that you can have everything accept the international borders where the national flag must be seen flying, currency must still be maintained and matters dealing with foreign affairs we will still maintain.

But as we unbundle the process towards us concluding this last remaining chapter in this 2001 Peace Agreement is concerned I ask this to the Member of this Parliament to continue to give respect to Bougainville.

They did the greatest favour to us by ensuring by peaceful means is maintained thus far. We will reciprocate by ensuring that we start to honour what is their due.

Mr Acting Speaker, our Government personally in the few months we have been in the office has started not only in talking but we have delivered funds. Let me place on record that previous governments failed to give them money but they haven't fully honoured all commitments and so far on record we have given more than K65 million.

The first time I arrived in Arawa I travelled on an unsealed road from Aropa to Arawa. The last time I was in Arawa I travelled on a sealed road from Aropa all the way to Arawa. That is money we have given to them to work on few of the outstanding major contracts. We have committed to help in the SME interventions, specifically 10 percent of our SME funds for Bougainville region for them to resuscitate the economy. We will try to give our utmost best to within the context of resource affordability we have in our Budgets to ensure that that part of our country is being supported and support they truly deserve.

Mr Acting Speaker, in conclusion we are paying the price of law, legislations that were constructed not in our national interests but in the interest of those who constructed the laws during the post –independence period in 1975. That’s why resource law amendments is totally in order to ensure that into the future no part of our country feels deprived from resource on their own land. The landowners are given rightful respect. Provincial Governments are given their rightful respect and also the National Government also collects for the greater distribution for the rest of the country. That is something this Government is seriously looking at.

Bougainville has given us the greatest lesson that with no proper respect to landowners and provincial governments and the Governments closest to the people the nation can pay the highest price as a result of Bougainville Copper Agreement is the cost to national unity.

I told our investor who are working in our country that well after a mine has closed or an oil field has dried up or well after a timber has been cut and shifted Papua New Guinea Government will continue to pay for the legacy of those operations. Lest we forget the last time we saw a revenue from Bougainville Copper Mine was in 1988 Or 1989 and 30 years on Government after Government have tried to foot the Bill of a legacy of the ill fated mind.

I appeal to our conscience that when we talk about these issues lets try to find the right balance so that into the future we are harvesting better and securing better resources and distribute equally to all parts of our country giving respect to landowners and provincial governments alike.

The Bougainville Crisis is tough reminder to what has happened and is a little step.

**32/01**

It is a little step to how we progress into the future and allowing us shaping a fair equitable regimes from the resources we have in our country. May God bless Papua New Guinea.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 5.15 p.m.