

FOURTH DAY

Friday 14 February 2020

DRAFT HANSARD

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FOURTH DAY

Friday 14 February 2020

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Jeffrey Komal**) took the Chair at 10 a.m.

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

Sitting Suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again (**Mr Jeffrey Komal**) took the Chair at 10.30 a.m. and invited the Member for Chuave and Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change **Honourable Wera Mori**, to say Prayers

‘O God Almighty, God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob, Lord you are also the God of the country Papua New Guinea which you have created. We thank you Lord that we are here, assembled because you have chosen us to represent the people of this country whom you created. This morning, I pray Lord and uphold our Prime Minister, his Cabinet and members of this Parliament including the Leader of the Opposition that Lord O God in whatever we may do, in what we ask Lord, in all things you must be glorified and honored. We come before you this morning and do confess that we lack wisdom, that we have gone away astray but Lord bring us back to your fold. Forgive us from our inequities Lord O God our Savior that Lord in all that we do, Lord it must manifest your Glory and Honor. This morning we come together in unison to pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus has taught us; Amen.’

POST COURIER NEWSPAPER REPORT – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER –. Honourable Members, the Chair would like to respond to the publication by Post Courier on its front page dated 14 February 2020 stating "Media Barred" and showing a picture of the Parliament House, Door 15 at the Second Floor of the A Wing.

The National Parliament supports and encourages the mainstream Media's role in taking parliamentary proceedings to the people through various means such as radio, television and newspapers.

We have provided special access and setups in the press gallery and the media booth within the National Parliament Chamber for this purpose.

We support the qualified rights of freedom of expression as an essential foundation for a balanced democratic state.

However, the Parliament House has its own rules, code of conduct and dress code that must be followed by visitors, staff and even Members of Parliament. The Parliament as a law-making body has made laws governing the Parliament building and precincts.

02/04

This is a large building with many different areas. Some areas are accessible to different individuals for different reasons.

Parliament building Door 15 at the Second Floor of A wing is a fire exit that leads out to the front Ground Floor. A Wing area, is not a door for the Press to enter to interview Members of Parliament as they are leaving the Chambers from their respective lobbies.

All visitors' access to this building is granted upon invitation or authorisation. Your access is limited to areas authorised to by parliamentary service officials.

Media personnel are welcome to come to Parliament precincts for any official business that they may have but they must also respect the rights of others and not use such avenues as fire escapes to access areas that they would not usually be allowed to access just to interview Members of Parliament.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finchhaffen) – Minister for Finance and Rural Development)
– Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS –
REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Minister for Health and HIV presenting a Ministerial Statement.

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019 – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr JELTA WONG (Gazelle- Minister for Health and HIV) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus issue.

Mr Deputy Speaker, and, honourable members of Parliament, the purpose of this statement is firstly to brief the House and the nation on the current global outbreak status and nature of the Novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV); secondly to advise the House on the PNG health sector's and government's partners response to the threat of the Novel Coronavirus and measures taken.

On 7 June, 2020, the Government of China identified a Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology in Wuhan City of the Hubei Province. By now the virus has spread throughout China, and has also been identified in a growing number of countries around the world. Cases confirmed in other countries have been linked to China through travel history, or close contact with a person with a history of travel to China. The airborne disease which originated in Wuhan, China, several weeks ago has already claimed more than thousand lives and has confirmed to have infected over 40, 000 cases.

Corona viruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory

Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel corona virus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

There is now clear evidence of human-to-human transmission and the WHO has declared Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) a public health emergency of international concern. This is only declared when there is an extraordinary event which constitutes a public health risk to

other States through the international spread of disease, and potentially requires a coordinated international response. This comes when the situation is:

- serious, sudden, unusual and unexpected;
- carries implications for public health beyond the affected State's national border, and
- may require immediate international action.

A public health emergency gives WHO power to recommend certain health measures to address the risk via the International Health Regulations. An increasing number of countries are reporting cases and the numbers of affected individuals are increasing daily.

03/04

The risk assessment of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Novel Coronavirus is very high in China, and high regionally and globally. PNG shares the same level of risk at the regional and global levels.

It should be mentioned here that the risk assessment is updated regularly based on new information.

With the geographic proximity and travel patterns of international flights and vessels via international points of entry (POEs), PNG is at high risk of importing the disease into the country.

We have acknowledged that our health system has limited capacity, experience and resources to manage a potential large-scale response making the risk of spread as high in the event that the virus enters the country.

But Mr Deputy Speaker, on prevention, let me now inform the house on PNG's preparedness, at the beginning. Let me tell you that there are no confirmed cases in Papua New Guinea. Let me repeat, there are no confirmed cases in Papua New Guinea.

My Department has already developed a National Emergency and Response Plan. Like other countries in the Pacific and the world. We have ramped up surveillance to counter the deadly virus which is fast spreading across the globe.

The National Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) has been activated and is in operation 24-hours, with daily meetings conducted.

A health desk has been set up at the Jacksons International Terminal with clinicians and health quarantine officers to screen all passengers on arrival. A hotline is now in place to report suspected cases. It provides standard responses to questions and receives an average of 20 calls per day.

My Department, with the support of WHO, has developed flyers; inflight advisory to passengers on the coronavirus; and we have a form that needs to be filled out by all incoming passengers. These forms collected by health workers stationed at the airport from inbound passengers.

NDOH to date has held meetings with the Immigration and Citizenship Authority, the National Airports Corporation, Air Niugini, PNG Ports, NAQIA and Customs to brief them on the situation, and develop messaging to inform PNG embassies and international airlines travelling to PNG and ensure a whole of government response to the coronavirus threat.

Air Niugini has advised its offices in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore to only allow passengers with medical clearances or stamps from that transiting country if they have stayed there more than 14 days. For example, if you originated from China, if you have a China passport or if you came from China and you wanted to travel to Papua New Guinea, there is only three ports to get into Papua New Guinea. Hong Kong, Singapore and Manilla through direct flights. So the passport of those citizens or Chinese passports have to be stamped in Hong Kong, Manilla and Singapore with a stamp that said they have been in the country for 14 days. Without that stamp, they cannot travel to Papua New Guinea. We have also pushed this down to Australia and other transit areas that will come into Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have released a public notice advising that the online visa portal has been activated (after having been closed for a short period) and has given the public assurance that with the assistance of the WHO, the virus can be contained. Further, the Minister of Immigration advises that there will be no uplifting of people from Wuhan China until further notice.

We have capacitated the Institute of Medical Research which now can test for the Coronavirus and will support the Department of Health to conduct tests on samples of any suspected patients. We have had four tests sent to the Institute of Medical Research in Goroka and the results have returned as negative.

04/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Health Department is working with the National Capital District Health Services and Port Moresby General Hospital in establishing an isolation facility for suspected cases and treatment, if we have any confirmed cases.

For the information of Parliament, our 17 citizens that were attending University in Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, have been evacuated to New Zealand and

will be there for 14 days to be quarantined and tested before they can return to PNG.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a ministerial committee has been formed under my Chairmanship to provide oversight and coordinate our government's multi-sectoral preparedness and response when necessary. Membership to the ministerial committee include the Minister for State Enterprises, Minister for Civil Aviation, Minister for Immigration & Citizenship, Minister for Information & Communication Technology, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Acting Secretary has appointed additional temporary quarantine officers for prompt clearance of ships so the movement of trade can continue.

It is also very important that trade continues. Papua New Guinea has a high import rate so medical officers have go onboard to do the same type of clearance on staff to allow the ships to come in.

Media orientations were organized to identify gaps in reporting, confirming fake news and rumors and getting help in allaying fear and panic. Media feedback is to coordinate messaging across all ministries for consistency.

I have published Gazettal notices effecting the following:

- (1) Appointing an isolation ward at Port Moresby General Hospital under the Quarantine Act, 1953 for a period of 60 days.
- (2) Declared Novel Coronavirus, MFRS, and SARS as quarantinable diseases under the Quarantine Act 1953 and an infectious disease under the Public Health Act 1973.
- (3) Declared that an epidemic caused by a quarantinable disease or danger of such an epidemic exists in PNG. This allows the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDs to take actions as necessary to control and eradicate the epidemic.
- (4) Directed authorities at all points of entry into PNG to distribute a form to all incoming travelers and collect said forms for monitoring and surveillance purposes.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I also signed a Gazettal Notice identifying Motukea; PNG Ports Rabaul; and Lae Port as temporary quarantine stations for 60 days.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Health is about Life—from the ‘Womb to the Tomb’, Health is highly technical, complex and expressive. Health Services are delivered from a network of 2,608 health facilities ranging from a "one-person" aid post to huge hospital like Port Moresby General Hospital. The Health System requires adequate funding, readily available at all times to deliver services and to save lives. I am thankful to the Current Marape- Steven Government for giving priority to health, But, Mr Deputy Speaker; no money is enough for Health because, we provide

direct live-saving services to our people and in a situation like this we need more.

Having said that, Mr Deputy Speaker, let me thank and commend our Prime Minister and the National Executive Council for appropriating money on Monday for the implementation of our Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Let me assure my colleagues that we will be judicious in spending this budget.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the good will and support of the business community and corporate citizens that have come forward freely to offer their assistance toward the emergency response that the government has mobilized to prevent coronavirus from entering our country. While we value your support, let me assure you all that your assistance collectively add meaning and purpose to our combined efforts.

Mr Deputy Speaker, "prevention is better than cure" that is why I want to spend what we have been appropriated on health promotion and surveillance.

05/04

That will help us to inform the country to stay free from this virus. We need to spread the news of cleanliness and healthy environment and to not get sick, so I call on all MPs of this House to help me allocate some of your financial resources to support the Provincial Health Authority for health promotion and vigilance.

We all want to protect ourselves and our families from a new and unknown disease. Honorable Members of the Haus, sick can do more harm than the virus. It can make us panic and do things which can makes matters worse, like circulating rumors online or blaming particular group for the outbreak.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to remind the general public of their role in minimizing the risk to maintaining personal hygiene, like covering your mouth when sneezing or coughing.

Avoid touching your eyes and nose with unclean hands, washing hands on every opportunity and not spitting in public areas. Fear and anxiety are our natural human reaction.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me remind everyone that health is everybody's business. I request the support of the leaders, the private sectors, the NGOs, development partners and even the community to help me and the health sector to keep our country safe from the coronavirus.

Finally, Mr Deputy Speaker, may I end this by thanking all the public servants that are on the frontline from the Department of Immigration, Air Niugini, National Airport Corporation, my own–Department of Health, PNG Ports, Foreign Affairs & Trade, Communication and St John Ambulance. Just to name a few, who are working tirelessly 24-

hours to make sure that this disease does not enter our country. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and God bless our country.

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

That the Parliament take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned

QUESTIONS

Coronavirus Impacts On PNG Economy

Mr JOSEPH LELANG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Treasury.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at the time when the 2020 National Budget was put together, we knew that the global economy was slowing down, but no one predicted the emergence of the Novel Coronavirus which is known here in a very short time and has spread around the world like wild fire causing intense effect to economies around the world with no end in sight through its mutating nature.

My questions to the Treasurer are as follows;

Key prices of a several export commodities, like Copper, Nickle, liquid Natural Gas (LNG) has plummeted since the virus emerged and with all prices falling below a 12-month average and below our 2020 budget assumptions.

(1) Can the Treasurer inform the people of PNG and this Honorable House whether this will impact directly or indirectly on the PNG economy and government revenue and by what magnitude?

This week, the China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) has issued directions to all of its facilities to cut all of its throughput. As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sinopec has signed sales and purchase agreement to import our LNG through its receiving terminals in Qingdong Province and also through its subsidiary Unipack in Singapore.

Just this week, Indonesia and Karter export LNG to China, but as reported this week, their ships had been turned back by invoking the *force majeure* clause.

06/04

My questions are:

(1) Does our sales purchased agreement with Sinopec contain *force majeure* clauses and if sure, is there a likelihood of this being invoked by Sinopec which would disrupt our LNG exports?

(2) Would that pose a real direct threat to the PNG economy and a major risk to the implantation of the 2020 Budget?

(3) There is high probability that the PNG economy will be affected, but that needs to be quantified, to what degree and do have a contingency measures ready to mitigate this impact?

This week the demand of crude oil in China is projected to drop by 20 per cent, and OPEC has reduced its oil price focus for 2020 as a consequence. No doubt our Tourism industry will be affected, and many factories are now closed in China which affect our country's export commodities.

Australia imports 50 per cent of our commodities and it is likely to be affected also by this virus given that it exports iron ore, coal and agricultural goods to China.

Many of our own industries in PNG also export commodities like timber to the Asian markets which eventually end up to China and the potential of the coronavirus in disrupting this supply network will have implication on our industry and our private sector in PNG.

So against this backdrop, would this virus affect the PNG economy in terms of our real sector, and our grow prospect in 2020 and on government finances as opposed to what has been projected in the 2020 Budget?

(4) Has the Minister and his Department modelled the impact of the coronavirus on the PNG economy both direct and indirect on our Budget and if so, can the Treasurer present a report to Parliament in quantifying the impact and implication of this global pandemic on the PNG economy and government finances and steps taken to mitigate sure impacts if any?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr IAN LING- STUCKEY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I want to thank the shadow Treasurer for his series of question. I am pleased to note he is monitoring what's happening in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my first advice to the Shadow Treasurer and to the public and private sector and to our businesses and people here in this country is, let us not panic. What is happening is a very serious health issue. We just heard this morning, some of the steps that the Health Minister and the Health Department and other agencies are taking on in our country.

Let's not be panic! Let's be vigilant. When the coronavirus first emerged.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as would be expected of any treasurer, I met with my advisors and I immediately instructed the Secretary for Treasury to start thinking about the impacts as detailed by the shadow treasurer. I also ask him to put some funds aside that will be required immediately and in that regards, it's been little more of challenging than I would have preferred.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at the last Budget Management Committee meeting on Tuesday, we received a request from the Department of Health for an amount and as a result of that meeting, a submission was brought to Cabinet and was approved for a fixed amount to address this.

But Mr Deputy Speaker, as you know, it does not take time, and I know that time is not on our side, but we need to sit down and work out the exact costing? But in the wisdom of BMC, we decided that while we are waiting for the departments to discuss on those amount would be, lets release K10 million and I understand that's underway.

07/04

Again, it is not as fast as I would have preferred, it but I am on standby to keep pushing there. So that is my opening statement to the shadow treasurer's questions.

Will the reduction in commodity prices affect the economy and indeed the budget, the short and honest answer is, it will but at this stage it's very early. We have to wait for the data to come back and will be sitting down. I can assure the members and the good shadow treasurer that we will be monitoring this very closely.

On the question on the sale agreement whether it includes an FDM, I will revert back to you on that, and the third question, what plans does the treasury have and if we have actually set up a modelling of the effects of coronavirus in our country. At this stage, I don't believe we have but thank you for bringing that up to our attention. But again as we all know, when we embark on a modelling exercise for those that have worked with it in their business lives, it requires a lot of assumptions. If we do not get those assumptions right that model has no meaning. Its early days, I thank you for reminding us. I am aware of what we need to do and again I will be monitoring.

Finally, what will the impact be on our economy, until the day the data comes back in, I won't be able to report back to this Parliament but happy to do so as soon as we can. I will be tabling a statement to the Parliament next week and if there are any new data that we receive from Treasury, I am happy to include on the statement, otherwise I will just inform the house

in a normal way in the mainstream media and I guess social media many of you seem to spend a lot of time on, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Kiriwina-Redraw Cheque for Road Construction

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Works.

Yesterday there was a question that came from the Honourable Member, Mr Richard Maru to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister was very correct to say that those questions should be directed to relevant ministers.

I would like to ask this question to the Minister for Works again because a few months ago, I asked him a question and he said, I will get back to you, unfortunately he did not come back to me.

I received a cheque from the Works Department and it went through a very vigorous tender process, the contractor was selected and through DSIP, we were able to kick start the project; however, we were advised by the bank that the cheque bounced. The project is now on hold and the contractor is stranded.

I would like to kindly ask the Minister for Works, when can I have the cheque redrawn?

With your announcement today at the Caucus, I hope that you would very work closely with the contractor, who is a very good contractor. This subcontractor assisted in the project from Alotau to East-cape.

I think this contractor did most of the work with regards to the road between Alotau and East-cape, the major contractor did very little on that job. I believe that the subcontractor did most of the work did, a very good job; the sealing of the Kiriwina road.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr MICHEAL NALI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough.

I am now confused because we did have a discussion and he did thank me. I thought everything was okay, it is unfortunate and surprising that the cheque bounced.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the process is like this, when funds are allocated through the budget for some of the projects and contracts we have, we actually draw the cheques. After the cheques are drawn, we then wait for the Department of Finance to clear the cheques so lately we have been facing some difficulties regarding these.

As I speak, my secretary is now listening and watching Question Time in his office to make sure he takes note of the questions being asked so we will give you an answer by this afternoon and if it is within my responsibility, I will deal with it.

08/04

Address Frequent Jail Break-Outs in the Country

Mr JONNY ALONK – I direct my questions to the Minister for Correctional Services.

As far as the country is concerned, we are going into so many problems of criminal activities around the highways, villages, districts, towns and cities. There are so many jail break-outs around the country thereby raising risks of criminal activities along highways. For example, the Madang-Lae Highway, the Highlands Highway and other highways.

I very much concerned about these jail break-outs especially when there is a mass break-out at the Buimo Prison which will be a treat to travellers along the Madang-Lae Highway and the Highlands Highway including sea travellers along our coasts. When criminals escape from our jails, they are loose and free to do whatever they want. This is a problem to our societies in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, how much time is given to try to rectify this problem?

Can the Minister inform this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea on what measures his Department has taken to fix this problem?

Mr CHRIS NANGOI – I thank the Member for Middle Ramu for his questions. Before I respond, I would like to take this time to wish a belated Merry Christmas and a happy prosperous 2020 to all members of Parliament. I look forward to working with the Government in 2020.

On Sunday 19 of January 2020, 17 high risks prisoners escaped from the Buimo Jail in the Morobe Province. The report is confirmed that these 17 high risk detainees escaped during visiting time from relatives. During the escape it was confirmed that one officer and a detainee lost their lives.

In July 2018, police shot dead 4 prison inmates, wounding 2 others while 9 escaped. In December 2017, 16 prisoners held a prison warden hostage before dashing for freedom. In March 2017, prison wardens shot dead 17 inmates in a mass break-out, recaptured 3 while 57 escaped.

09//04

In February 2016, Police shot dead and killed 11 of the prisoners and about 30 prisoners were attacked by two prison warders wounding 17. And in June 2015, 55 prisoners escaped during heavy downpour –

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, there is a Point of Order.

Mr Kobby Bomoreo – Point Of Order! Can the Minister present a statement on this but for now can you just answer the question asked?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Point of Order in order.

Mr CHRIS NANGOI – Thank you, Member for your question. This is just a history of break-outs in Buimo Prison.

For the escape on 19 July, the very next day on 20 July, we had our Commissioner and 10 officers from Port Moresby travel to Lae to assist in the investigation and while they were there. The 10 officers to beef up the security within the Prison Camp.

There was an internal investigation going on for this break-out and there was a request which reached the Police to do a separate internal investigation for this incident.

The immediate families of the Officer that had been shot dead were present so they had dialogue with the Commissioner on how to go about the situation to repatriate the body.

As we speak the Correctional Service and a representative of the officer that was shot are working closely with the Police and the Doctors to do a post mortem to find the cause of the death.

With the actions taken, the Correctional Service Internal Investigation was completed and the report was presented to me as the Minister of the Department. The 10 officers remain there to beef up the security and all the prisoners are in a lock-down situation to complete the investigation.

There are two main reasons why there has been mass break-outs everywhere. Firstly, the overcrowding of the institution, we have a total number of 102 inmates in Buimo which exceeds the 85 officers in total.

Currently, we are having close consultation with the Member for Lae and the Minister for Lands Department to build a 100-men dormitory for the detainees as well as a commitment

from the Correctional Service Department to build a 100-men dormitory to cater for the inmates.

My appeal to the families, friends and even the public must not harbour these 17 high-risk inmates. We must help the Police to speed up the investigation and bring these inmates back into the prison. There has been no arrests made.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Build More Rural Lockups

Mr KOBBY BOMOREO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Yes, Minister there have been many reports given. The Buimo Prison Camp has continuously experienced break-outs and the reason you provided is overcrowding. We all know that Morobe is a big province and all the law offenders from the districts are brought to this one facility. What are your plans to address this situation?

Just like the health department is providing each district with its hospital, can the same approach be taken with prison camps for holding prisoners?

So that small-time offenders can be held back in their districts for rehabilitation and serious offenders can be sent to the towns. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

10/04

Mr CHRIS NANGOI – The Commissioner has been tasked that many rural sectors such as Menyamya must come have their own prison camps. I have visited Menyamya to ensure that it must have its own rural lockup because it is difficult to transport high-risk prisoners. We also travelled to Bogia as well as Bougainville and the entire Highlands Region.

The overcrowding in our prison camps is because many of our rural lockups are not functioning or in existence. Right now, we have some rural lockups on the list. We will work, depending on the budget that was given to us. The problem with us is the lack of funds or budget to set up rural lockups.

There is no reason why we should not build rural lockups. We want to run court circuits back in our electorates and that is very important. For example on my island; Karkar, I have a population of 100, 000 people and yet I don't have a court circuit or a rural lockup there as well. So, the population is the problem and it is very important. We need to build rural lockups in very remote electorates.

Thank you.

Police Harassment of Members of Parliament

Mr PETER YAMA – My series of question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister can take note.

Mr Deputy Prime Minister, you are a very learned man in law and you've been a very senior man in private practice and now you have become a Member and the Deputy Prime Minister, I congratulate you for that.

My question is in relation to myself. It is very important because as a leader and a statesman, my family and I were confronted at the Jackson's International Airport by well-over 80 policemen from the mobile squad for a very minor issue.

Many members of Parliament have been through election petitions and problems. I happen to have an election petition filed against me and I won the case. It is not a very serious indictable offence. This particular election petition was withdrawn by the person himself during the election petition.

After two and a half years, this matter is now brought to police for me to be charged for K50 and my family and I were traumatized at the airport on our way back from the Philippines onto Madang. I have never experienced such things in my life though I have been a policeman myself, Mr Deputy Speaker. Now, if that can happen to me, what guarantee do you give to anybody else in this Parliament?

Yesterday, with the greatest respect, I left the Parliament at about 12.55 p.m. after the Parliament Sitting and when I went out of the precincts of Parliament. The policemen were waiting for me at the gate.

There were uniformed policemen and a plain cloth policeman, a member of the CID from the police headquarters. When they came in and I grew suspicious that there were policemen outside so I parked the car in the front of the gate and stopped. The policemen then came in and asked, are you Mr Yama? I said yes, I am. They said we've got a letter for you from the Police Commissioner. I said well, I don't know about this letter. I turned the car around to drive back to the Parliament but then I thought the rightful thing was to do is to talk to them and I stopped the car. The policemen came into the precincts of the Parliament and issued me a paper, a letter, an order from the Police Commissioner that I must go and report today by 10.30 a.m.

Now in the precincts of Parliament, we are protected, immune, this is the *hausman* of the people of Papua New Guinea. No policeman and no one, it's in the *Standing Order*, section 13, no one can come into this Parliament and serve documents. And if a policeman can come

and do it to me, Peter Yama, a three-time Member of Parliament, now many of you have won three time in three different electorates. I am the only one. I am 65 years old now.

11/04

I could be seen as first statesman as Sir Julius Chan, some of you are too young. If they can do it to me, who are you. This House has not been respected. And I am in a Parliament Sitting and there are policemen outside trying to serve me a notice to see the Police Commissioner at 10:30 in the morning. This is an election-related matter, if the complaint is laid in Madang it must be dealt with in Madang. I am the Governor of Madang and the candidate who filed this complaint is in Madang.

Mr Richard Masere – Point of Order! I think the good Governor is telling us a story, I think he needs to ask his question, so that we continue the session.

Mr DEPUTY ACTING SPEAKER – Point of Order! Out of Order! I guess he is trying to get towards the question.

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Acting Speaker, my greatest respect to the K50, I do not know how much you give to the people of Papua New Guinea but Peter Yama has given over 40 years as a businessman. I have given more money than anyone in this Parliament to everybody. I am a Father Christmas!

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER YAMA -My issue is this, it is very frightening for me to have a policeman following me to Parliament and to the airport. Last week there could have been a confrontation but thanks to the Air Niugini pilot, there was an engine problem and the pilot did not land in Madang, and we had to land in Lae. The Mobile Squad 13 and 14 were waiting for me in Madang. There could have been a confrontation but it was avoided.

This is frightening and I am trying to give a back ground of what is happening. My question is:

(1) Can the Attorney-General to provide a background of how an election petition related case has become a criminal issue and is it provided for under the Organic law because there are policemen coming after me?

(2) Is it right for the policemen to come into the Parliament precincts to serve police documents to Members of Parliament?

I am not surprised to see this happening right here in Parliament. Yesterday, when I came out here with Sir Julius Chan and I was watching the Minister as he walked out. I told Sir Julius, I think he is going to the Police station to complain about me, watch and see, I will be called up by the police very soon, and that was what happened. He was not seen yesterday, for almost two and a half-hours. Even today, he is not here, he is still organizing the police out there.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER YAMA – This is the Police Minister, exercising the work of the Police Commissioner. On Monday, the Director of Crimes gave my lawyer and I assurance that nothing will happen.

On Wednesday, I am in Parliament, here the Minister walks out of Parliament, the next thing I see the police waiting for me. And when my men went to the Commissioner's office, he was seen there and remained there for almost an hour.

(3) Do you realize that this man is the most dangerous man?

Mr Allan Bird – Point of Order! I think we do not make or ask questions when the other Member is not present, so to maintain parliamentary decorum, could you ask the good Governor to withdraw. If he and the Member for Madang have differences, they can have those settled at other places other than the Parliament. They do not need to do this on the Floor of Parliament. This is the second time this is happening here.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, it is un-Parliamentary language and if you could withdraw that statement.

Mr PETER YAMA – With greatest respect to the sons of this Parliament, which our indigenous mothers, Aunties and sisters of this country have gone out and married outside of this country, must have great respect for us as Uncles and Fathers. But I am speaking about this young fellow here in Parliament. And I have evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt, that he is most dangerous because he is not from this country. And I will prove it.

Mr Wera Mori – Point of Order! The language and the manner in which you are addressing another Member is un-parliamentary. Can we have some control on this please?

12/04

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Point of Order in order. Honourable Governor, un-parliamentary languages must not be used. We must respect one another. This is the Honourable House. We must speak what we need to speak. Thank you.

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Deputy Speaker, if it happens to them I don't know what they will think. It happened to me and I felt that it is directly against me and I do not deserve the type of treatment he is giving to me.

This is the only place I want to register this with the greatest respect Mr deputy Speaker, If the Member for Madang continues to harass me and to use his position as the Minister for Police to do what he is doing like coming to Parliament and serving me documents or getting the Mobile Squad to the airport at Madang. Is he being put in there to do this job; to hunt me down? Getting the Mobile Squad to come into Madang and trying to destroy my family and my standing as a leader, as the Governor of Madang? If he has a personal reason, can he directly approach me?

My issue of coming to this Parliament is because he came to this Parliament and directly send the police men to serve me documents in the precinct of this Parliament. And that is why I am saying he is dangerous. I want to put it on record. I think he is dangerous because he is the only one who has brought this to Parliament now. No one in this Parliament has been served a document like that, I am the first man.

Mr RAINBO PAITA – Point of Order. Mr Deputy Speaker, can I request that the good Governor of Madang must withdraw the statement that our good Honourable Minister for Police is not from this country? We must respect him as a statesman.

Mr Deputy Speaker, everyone that is on this Floor whether born of our mothers or aunties or adopted have the right to be here as elected leaders. And that coming from a senior leader is not a good show of statesmanship.

Mr Deputy Speaker, can he withdraw the statement that the Police Minister is not from this country? Everyone here by virtue of them seated here is from Papua New Guinea. Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Ruling. Honourable Governor, if you can withdraw that statement, that word and then after that resume your seat and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister can answer your question.

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Deputy Speaker, to withdraw is very hard for me at this point in time because I am fighting a case before the courts to declare his election null and void. I cannot.

Mr John Rosso – Point of Order! With due respect to our good governor as an uncle. He is a very respectable and a very close friend of mine. What you wanted to say to the Minister of Police is your business with him. This is the Floor of the Parliament. It doesn't matter how our mothers bore us even if we are mixed races. We are born here. We grew up here, in a block, in a settlement in villages and we hold dear our mother tongue and our customs. For them to every time say that 20 per cent of this Parliament is made up of us mixed races. I request Mr Deputy Speaker through your office that the good Governor and my uncle withdraw his statement because I am very upset with what he said. I am not from another place, this is my native homeland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Point of Order in Order. The Honourable Minister if you can control it. We definitely know that the good senior Governor of our province will withdraw the statement that he has just made.

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I am withdrawing my statement. But I want to make it clear that this does not include the mixed races like Peter O'Neill, including yourself, Allan Bird and Sir Julius Chan. I know all of you very well. I know Brian Kramer and that is why I cannot withdraw my statement because I was in Madang for 42 years when he was born.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor.

Mr Richard Masere – Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask a new question because this thing is going on too long.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – No. We have a question that is yet to be answered by the good Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

Honorable Governor, can you withdraw your statement?

13/04

Mr PETER YAMA – I can withdraw but I must explain myself. I am refereeing to our half-caste children, whose mothers are Papua New Guinean. His mother is not from Papua New Guinea, his mother is from Solomon Islands and his father is from Australia, he is not from Papua New Guinea. He was never born or adopted here in Papua New Guinea. Kramer adopted him. So he is not Papua New Guinean, okay

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Governor, Honorable members, this House belongs to the people. We are here because of the trust our people have in us and we need to uphold that trust they have in us in this House. If we have something good to say, say it without obscene language. If we have grudges against another member of Parliament, this is not the place to vent it out. Thank you for listening, Thank you, the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr John Rosso – Point of Order! I'd like to apologize to the Parliament for my behavior and to Honorable Governor, who is like a father to me for my outburst. Thank you very much.

Mr DAVIS STEVEN – Mr Deputy Speaker, the Honorable Governor of Madang's question was accompanied by many statements, in the process his question has become diminished to the point where an answer is not possible.

I take the opportunity to remind the Honorable House and the learned and honorable leaders of our *Standing Orders* of the National Parliament. Under *Part 8* of the *Standing Orders*, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is very clear, questions seeking information, and under rules 141 for questions, may I quote the following general rules apply to Questions, “a question cannot be debated, a question should not contain statement of facts and names of persons, arguments or infringes, a question should not contain imputations or ironical expressions.”

But of relevance this morning, Mr Deputy Speaker, “a question should not ask a Minister for an expression of opinion or for legal opinion.” That's a restriction, prohibition by rules of the proceedings of this Honorable House. The discussions generated by the Governor of Madang are very important legal issues about the sanctity and the privileges of members of Parliament

14/04

These are matters within the prerogative of the Clerk but also as the Attorney-General, I am interested and concerned.

The discussion also relates to matters that seem to arise from election petitions, court case actions and actions of the Police here in Port Moresby and also in Madang.

So Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst I recognise very important legal issues that have arisen this is not the place and the forum to provide legal opinions but if the opportunity is given for both the Honourable House through the Clerk then my officers will look into this issues.

I will therefore pursuant to *Standing Orders*, ask the Honourable Governor to put the facts and circumstances that has referred to in writing in a written notice and these issues will be dealt according to *Standing Orders*. Thank you.

Establish Credit Guarantee Cooperation of Papua New Guinea

Mr RICHARD MARU – Thank you, Deputy Mr Deputy Speaker.

This week an issue was raised on the Floor of Parliament about reserved business for Papua new Guineans.

The bulk of our people continue to be spectators whilst businesses which Papua new Guineans can run continue to be controlled by outsiders from this country.

I was very happy that the Minister for Commerce and Trade has assured Parliament that in the next sitting he will be bringing through the legislative amendment for us to bring back reserved list of businesses for businesses that have been reserved for our citizens.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the issue that we going to have once the legislation is brought through, will be the inability of Papua new Guineans to buy into businesses which are reserved for Papua new Guineans which are currently owned and run by people who are not our citizens.

(1) Where will our citizens obtain the funds and the training to take over this businesses?

Mr Deputy Speaker, these could be thousands and thousands of businesses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Yanggoru-Saussia, to whom do you direct your question?

Mr RICHARD MARU – I direct my question to the Treasurer.

It was an NEC policy decision for Bank of Papua New Guinea to set up the credit guarantee corporations that our citizens can obtain guarantees to buy and operate a lot of our businesses which are currently owned by outsiders.

It has been 12 months since that policy decision and the Bank of Papua New Guinea is yet to establish the credit guarantee cooperation of Papua New Guinea.

In the case of Malaysia, it resulted in over 400,000 Malaysian Malays setting up businesses because they were provided guarantees by the Central bank.

My question is, when is the Central Bank going to establish the credit guarantee cooperation of Papua New Guinea?

So that our citizens who don't have assets like houses to mortgage to the bank can still obtain loans including sizeable loans to start their own businesses and take over from many of the foreign businesses operating in what we called the 'reserved space' for our citizens.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank good Member for his question.

I will be meeting with the Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea on Monday and I am happy to ask him that question and will report back to this Parliament.

Thank you.

15/04

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances be noted.

Sepik Highway Deteriorating

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I stand on behalf of my people of Nuku in West Sepik Province to talk about the deteriorating Sepik Highway. It's good that the Works Minister is present here today to hear what I am about to say. All those times, I must have been speaking in English so none of you understood what I was saying. Today, I will be speak in Tok Pisin so the Minister for Works and others present today will

understand me. The Sepik Highway is the responsibility of the Department of Works just the same as the Highlands Highway and the other national highways.

The National highways falls under the responsibility of the National Government. National highways refers to roads connecting one province to another province. The provincial governments looks after provincial roads linking one district to another in the same province. The district roads connect one LLG to another LLG in the same district.

Many times it appears that the Department of Works and the National Government both wants to build the same district roads and forgets about the roads that they are supposed to look after. In this case it is the Sepik Highway.

Sepik Province has two highways, one linking the coastal villagers all the way to Vanimo and to Jayapura in Indonesia. There is a missing link in-between Aitape and Vanimo which we are currently working on.

The Department of Works has a misunderstanding concerning the inland Sepik Highway. The inland Sepik Highway is the only highway linking over 600, 000 people. Out of the 800, 000 or more people from the two Sepik Provinces, about 500, 000 or more use that road. That road links six Sepik Districts stopping at Lumi.

Right now we are faced with a problem because all the coordination of that road is at Wewak, which is very far from the highway itself. So I am proposing to assist our development friends like the Australian Government under the TSSP Project who are maintaining and upgrading the road.

I would like to share my experience about the last time I went home. It took me a very long time to get to the village through the Sepik Highway. And when I travelled using the district road it was a short ride. That is because the district roads are maintained by the districts itself. The district have machines available to maintain the roads conditions.

The road going in to Nuku from the Sepik Highway turn-off usually took about 2 hours, now it is a 15-minute drive. But to travel to Nuku using the Sepik Highway it takes more time. This is because the Department that is responsible for this road is losing focus and doing other things that they are not supposed to be doing. For instance, going down to maintain district roads.

I want to raise this as a grievance on behalf of my people that the coordination of the Department of Works looking after the Sepik Highway be moved to Maprik or near the border of East and West Sepik. Right now it is at the wrong place whilst concerned places like Vanimo, Nuku and Lumi are not connected by any roads.

In addition, the Engineers from the Department of Works are stationed only at towns and provincial headquarters. They should be at or near the roads so they can be in a better position to assist our development partners in making good decisions about the conditions of our roads.

Furthermore, instead of awarding contracts to a single contractor, we should award it to multiple contractors because it is over 200 kilometres and cannot be maintained by a single contractor.

16/04

Therefore should be segmented and awarded multiple contractors. The Department of Works or under the TSSP program through the Foreign Affairs and Trade supported by the Australian Government can award contracts to multiple contractors so they can segment the highway and maintain at all times. Maybe they can just do the routine maintenance or upgrading.

Now all the sealed roads are deteriorating and those roads that used to take few minutes travelling on are taking hours. It takes too long for us so, it is one of the big problems for us now.

We need to share this in Parliament so that we all can work together. I am appealing to the Works Minister and Transport Minister and those who are looking after our roads to see and change some directions to focus on roads that are deteriorating instead of those in good conditions.

So, I want to share in this grievance debate about my district road. We must maintain our district roads ourselves. We have our own civil engineers who were engaged by the district itself using the K400, 000 from the DSIP. This money was provided for design and scoping.

Since 2013, we have engaged a civil engineer, who is not from Sepik but from Bougainville.

So, we've been doing that and we implemented our own road and it is funny because when we go to our district, we travel faster on a good road but for the main Sepik Highway, it is in a deteriorating state and it takes a lot of time.

So, I am sharing my thoughts. I don't know, some of you in other provinces are probably okay. This is the problem we have in Sepik.

The main highway is deteriorating whilst the district small roads are in good condition which the opposite of the expected outcomes.

And who is responsible? Well, I've said it earlier, the Works Department is responsible for national highways. My view is very clear, I am not asking you to give me money. There are already funding partners available. We have the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Australian Government through the TSSP program.

It's already available but they need the direction from the engineers of Department of Works who should be based up there at the location which is closer to scope the project and maybe give selected advise the contractors to do the work on site.

Right now, I heard the Minister for Works talking about some bridges. Well, I have a bridge which was damaged by the Department of Works itself and it took almost 12 years to replace that bridge.

So, I wrote to his Ministry and the Department to look into it so that it can be given priority because the road is a national highway.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I see that on the national highway so let us refocus and let the department responsible to be in charge and be in place at the right location to assist on a timely manner to maintain and make sure that we upgrade those roads.

I've been moving back and forth on that road and had not felt well because the condition of the main Sepik Highway is bad.

So, I am asking if Works Department can go station at the central location of the highway rather the at the far end side, 200 kilometers to Lumi. The six districts deserve it, both East and West Sepik.

And that is where the bulk of the Sepik population live. We have a Works establishment in my district that has been neglected and there are no workers and the workshop has been shut down a long time ago.

I think, when you revive the setup again, we will then fix it. So, I bring it to Parliament's attention to show that we have similar problems in other main highways like Ramu, Madang, Highlands Highway, and many other highways in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving the opportunity to represent the people of Nuku. Thank you.

17/04

Stop Illegal Logging

Sir JULIUS CHAN (New Ireland) – Mr Deputy Speaker thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. Mr Deputy Speaker I have one thing to say today. It is simple. It is direct. It is a matter of survival for the people of both New Ireland and Papua New Guinea

Today, I am declaring war on illegal logging in New Ireland. Why do I say this, Deputy Speaker? Why do I declare war on the logging companies? I do it because they are the enemy. The enemy! Just look at what they do.

We all know that even though almost all the logging operations are approved by the National Forestry Authority, most of them are illegal. They almost never have the approval of the landowners. Fake landowner groups are set up and sign the agreements, and the Forestry Authority never checks to see if they are valid.

The companies abuse our people, Deputy Speaker. They destroy our land. They destroy our rivers. They destroy our bridges and roads by using trucks that weigh two or three times the legal limit. They even hire policemen as security. So the very officers who are supposed to protect and serve our people are instead attacking our people. This is happening Mr Deputy Speaker right now. And I hope that the Police Minister will be doing something about it. What are the PPCs doing about it? Nothing! In fact, they deny it is happening.

It is treason! They should be called to account for it. And I hope the Prime Minister, please protect the rights of the poor, the weak and those less fortunate.

The logging companies lie. They cheat. Did you know that there are over 16 to 20 companies or conglomerates doing logging in Papua New Guinea right now? And did you know that those companies have declared a loss in the last 10 years? Did you know that those companies have declared a total loss of well over K50 million or so in the last 10 years?

How can that be? How can a company operate for over 10 years make a loss and still be in business?

The answer is simple. They lie. They lie about how many logs they cut and ship. They lie about how much it costs them to ship the logs. Since they use their own ships to transport the logs, they charge two or three times normal for freight. That means the logging companies can declare a loss because of the high freight costs, but the mother company registered somewhere around the world still makes a huge profit, because they own the ships.

It also means that none of these companies are paying tax! In fact, since they supposedly lose money every year they actually build up a tax credit. Today these companies have a combined tax credit, and I'm talking about a few of them only of over K100 million tax credit.

18/04

So even if those companies make a profit of K100 million in the next twenty years, they will still pay no tax. I hope the Honourable Treasurer is listening?

All those timber licences should be revoked! Now and what about SABLs? These special Agricultural Business Lease have been granted to companies who are allegedly going to clear forest to plant cash crops like Palm Oil, an incredible 5.5 million hectares have been granted in SABLs. That is eight times the size of New Ireland; almost twice the size of the Morobe province it is over one-tenth of the entire country!

What really happens? Oh, the companies clear land, all right, they cut all trees, take all the logs and export them, but almost no plantations planted and my government has agreed to expand palm oil.

The SABLs are illegal, the commission of inquiry into SABLs in 2012 said 70 per cent of those were granted by the Lands Department illegally. There was no consultation with land owners. Most of the agreement were made with individuals who said they represented the landowners, but they were simply encouraged to sign by the logging companies.

The Prime Minister and NEC in its decision No.184/2013 said and I quote, “NEC approves to revoke all SABLs recommended by the two commission of Inquiry (COI) reports that was over 70 per cent of all SABLs.” Seven years later now, and what has happened? Nothing! The logging companies are still raping our country. This must stop now! It is time for PNG to get smart! I hear a lot of talk about taking back PNG. Well, you want to take back PNG? Then start with logging. Stop the illegal logging. Stop the SABLs and look around the world to see how to run forestry.

Look at Sweden and Finland. Between them Sweden and Finland have about 450,000 square kilometres of forest as Finland and Sweden combined. How do we compare in earns to those countries?

Each year Finland makes about K38 billion from forest products. Sweden makes nearly K60 billion per year. PNG on the other hand makes only about K1.3 billion. So Sweden and Finland make 75 times as much as PNG with the same amount of forest land.

How do they do it? The majority of forestry operation in both Sweden and Finland are small- scale operations run as family businesses. In Sweden, 60 per cent of the forestry business are family run. In Finland about 65 per cent of the forestry business are in the hands of the family. Both Sweden and Finland have no major foreign-owned companies involved in logging or forestry business. All those engaged in forestry are citizens of the country; therefore, the benefits and profits from the forestry go to the citizens of the country and not to foreigners. They are sustainable, they take only a small portion of the regional forest and they plan forest plantation for most of their logs. This means they will have incomes forever, not just for a few decades that is the way we must manage forestry in PNG.

19/04

We cannot allow the robbery, the lying and the bribery to go on. All of us must join together to stop the rape of our country, I tell you this is war and if we do not win this war, our forest will be gone, our rivers will be polluted, our bridges will be broken as in New Ireland. Our people will be poor and the foreign companies will be rich with billions of dollars in the bank that should have gone to our people. They will abandon us and laugh at how they fooled those simple kanakas.

I have something to say to those arrogant logging companies, those simple kanakas are declaring war, my people are declaring war and there is one thing, it is how to fight a war in the bush, in our bush and we will win, so enough talking, enough promises, it is time for action, it is time for war.

Honourable Prime Minister, revoke the SABL today, please! Kick out the foreign companies today and take back PNG that is all. Thank you.

Nepotism within Ombudsman Commission

Mr JOHN SIMON (Maprik) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Before I proceed, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for stepping in to oversee the ministry during my absence while I was hospitalised for the past eight months, thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

I am more than happy to be part of this Grievance Debate. I want to raise my grievances against the Ombudsman Commission. Personally, I am not happy because I am now seen as a corrupt leader in the eyes of the nation and that cannot be changed which is very sad.

Mr Deputy Speaker, due to court case, I took the stand before the leadership tribunal and I would like to state my grievance against the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea.

The Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea is not doing its duties accordingly and independently. It is now involved in politics. Some decisions made are not right and some investigations are not done properly. They carry out unnecessary arrests just like the Fraud Squad. This is why my Governor was complaining about the work of the Police, same as that of the Public Prosecutor.

Mr Deputy Speaker, no offence but the three offices are managed by foreigners and not nationals or our own, because we nationals have a bad attitude towards our very own people and accuse members unnecessarily; we are not honest.

20/04

We have an attitude of conspiring to defame another person. We are not honest with ourselves and the jobs that we do. We must therefore recruit foreigners who have no attachments whatsoever to carry out these tasks dutifully and honestly. Their decisions will be fair for all of us. The Ombudsman Commission when investigating does not care about the reputation of us as leaders who have built that reputation over time.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in this country, it is very difficult to clear your name and build back your reputation. Even when you are found not guilty, people will always see you as a corrupt leader. Our media outlets like the newspapers and *Facebook* will all help to tarnish your good name.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like see that we look into the responsibilities of our Ombudsman Commission and establish its integrity as an independent investigating body for our country. The Ombudsman Commissioners are all from one region in this country. This is wrong. We need to have a fair representation of our commissioners from all regions in our country. We must also look into the qualifications of officers occupying positions within the Ombudsman Commission. They must have a credible history in order to occupy those jobs. We should not just chose people to occupy those positions. Our ignorance is costing our leaders a lot. It is not easy to build a leader but very easy to destroy one.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I went through it and some of you will always face it if we do not fix this office. If we are serious about fighting corruption then we must recruit foreigners to occupy these positions. We must not allow our own to occupy these positions because there will be 'wantok' system and bribery. There will be unnecessary arrests, no proper investigations and a lot of character defamation. My case is a clear example of such. Papua New Guinea will always regard me as a corrupt Member of Parliament regardless of what I say or what the courts decide. The public perception about me is already bad and it will remain like that.

If the Ombudsman Commission was fair from the start then I would not have been in this situation from the start. I would like to see that we fix the Ombudsmen Commission.

As I have mentioned the three Ombudsman Commissioners must come from separate regions of our country. If we can't then we should recruit foreigners to occupy these positions. We have to do it because if we don't then you and I, as members of Parliament will be victims of such. This can also be extended to our Public Prosecutors Office or the Police Fraud Squad. We must have people who can independently assess the investigations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when we talk about corruption, everybody looks our way. I was a businessman before I became a Member of Parliament but there are so many young Papua New Guineans who just graduated from our educational institutions who somehow own properties and vehicles. Where did they get the money from? Why can't we investigate them? This is happening right before us. How can very young people who just got out of school own five Toyota Land cruisers and a very big property? Where did they get the money from? The Ombudsman Commission is busy looking at me but stealing is going on right at its backyard.

21/04

Five vehicles and one big property, for goodness sake, where did they get the money from? Ombudsman Commission is looking at me but theft happens behind their backs. So, when that Bill for ICAC comes, we will have to support it. This is what's happening in this country!

Young men who are working for Finance Departments, Ombudsman Commission, and other departments are rich. Where did they get the money from? When somebody like me cannot afford to buy a property in Port Moresby. I am a business man and a Member of Parliament but I can't even afford to buy a property, so it begs the question of the sort of money are they earn, that they can buy properties and vehicles. They own five to ten cars which some of us members can't afford. They have hire car businesses. A public servant has ten hire cars, yet he's sitting there. He's hiring his own hire cars and yet doesn't get investigated but for me, it's very easy to be investigated.

Public servants have hire cars and properties being rented out. How did they buy these things, did they get a bank loan? If they did, how did they raise the initial capital to pay the deposit or the equity? Goodness! I can't even do that. But, when I get shot down by Ombudsman Commission, they start attacking me on *Facebook* and saying "corrupt leader". They're pointing one finger at me and five fingers going back at them. Mr Prime Minister, bring that bill and we will all have to support it. We are not afraid of it.

They talk about us and say that we are corrupt leaders of this country. The "watch dogs" or "watch pigs" tell them to investigate properly. Corruption is out there but you are looking at the wrong place.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, sorry for raising my voice but for eight months I have suffered from stories printed by the *Post Courier* and *The National*.

One thing I would like to make mention of is, the media reports only bad things about this country. The journalists must understand that when you destroy your leaders, you are also destroying the country so they must conduct their investigations properly.

I'm John Simon and I am a Member of Parliament for Papua New Guinea, when you destroy me you are destroying your own country. You need to understand these things. And when our journalist are reporting we expect that they report properly. When you are still an accused, in the public's eyes you are already guilty.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I walk around in public, God knows that I feel ashamed because I think people are talking about me, "there goes the most corrupt leader". I built myself over the years, I did not just come by like this just to be destroyed by jealous people and the media. They don't know the pain I feel. When the media reports, they destroy us for no good reason.

If they want to do their jobs thoroughly they should also investigate the public servants and their businesses, how and where did they find the money to have businesses. They are just public servants but they own vehicles, hire cars and properties.

Like I said earlier, I have been a businessman for a long time and yet I cannot even afford to purchase a property here in Port Moresby. One million is just too high for me and I cannot afford it but they can afford it. They own cars and properties and they do not even have loans

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Minister, your time of debate is nearly done now.

Mr JOHN SIMON – Mr Deputy Speaker, I have not spoken for a while in this House.

22/03

My pay as a Member cannot even afford it but they can afford it. They've got five to six hire cars; they don't even have loans with the banks but they own properties.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Minister your time for debate is up.

Mr JOHN SIMON – Mr Deputy Speaker, I have not spoken in this House for too long. I missed speaking in this House. Imagine eight months, it is a very long time. Let me speak a little more.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – We must speak according to our allocated time.

Mr JOHN SIMON – Thank you, I agree with you. It’s my concern and I have spoken about it. We must empower the Ombudsman Commission. I concur with that but if we do so can we bring in people from outside to come and do it. Do not get Papua New Guineans. There will be a lot of nepotism.

Decentralise National Government Powers to Provinces

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ (Central) – Firstly, before I contribute to this debate in this honourable House I’d like to pass my apologies for not being here on Tuesday and Wednesday Parliament Sittings.

I was overseas doing my medical check because I felt sick while I was down there and I had to make sure that I don’t have the Novel Coronavirus.

I’d like to apologise for not being here yesterday as well because I had a commitment in my province down at Kwikila. I had an open forum talk with my people of Rigo to discuss good governance. My contribution to this debate is on some of the issues that I face in the province, mainly agriculture which was going to be one of the main drivers in driving my economy in Central Province.

I realised that there’s a lot of issues existing that make my job very difficult. In trying to push agriculture, I realised that I keep lecturing and preaching to my people about getting their land registered because 97 per cent of land in Papua New Guinea is customary-owned. Ninety per cent of our people live in the rural areas and they own these land.

So, if you want to take back PNG and if you want to start driving our own economy, pushing for the 22 economies to actually drive our country, we need to open up these two major resources which are the people and their land.

I have been lecturing to my people about registering their ILGs and their cooperatives to drive their ILG businesses. But then I realised that when it comes to registering their ILGs, it is becoming very difficult at the Lands Department. It is becoming very costly and they don’t get a lot of assistance from the Lands Department.

We are caught between a rock and a hard place. So, how do we address this? We need to re-look at how we assist our people in getting their ILGs registered and getting it done cheaply because you’re talking about people in the villages who do not have any money.

Another problem that I’ve come across is the SABL. In the past the SABLs were used to compulsorily acquire a lot of land that belongs to the people in the villages. They were led to believe that they could benefit from those projects. In Central Province, we have some very, very big, multi-million kina projects that were sanctioned by the government such as the

Kairuku Naima Rice Project. This is a multi-million kina project that involves hundreds of thousands of hectares of land.

To date there is not much talk about it but the people are still asking the question about the Naima Rice Project. Then you also talk about the Launa-Kalana Cassava Project which is another multi-million kina project which involves a lot of customary land as well

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So there are still lots of questions and doubts amidst all these agriculture issues and projects that are outstanding. And here I am coming and talking about more agricultural projects.

So, I am caught between a rock and a hard place but I am putting systems in place that will try to assist our people to take a step forward in solving these issues. Another fact that is affecting our progress in actually opening our provinces is the decentralizing the powers to the provinces in order for the Government to actually succeed in driving these development agenda. The land that we are targeting and focusing on to actually bring government services into and develop such as the districts and the sub- districts are now all claimed by the traditional landowners.

Some of these lands have gone past the 99-year lease. The landowners are now adamant that after the 99-year lease the land goes back to them. We as government will need to go back and start a big awareness program to educate our people on what is legal and what's not. So, that when we go out to drive our development agendas at the province and down to the LLG level; our people are aware on where they stand and how they can be involved and partnered in driving the development agendas that we would like to put in place for our respective provinces.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we talk about registering ILGs as customary land and registering co-operatives, to drive these ILGs businesses and it also comes down to NID registrations; because that is part of the requirement. Getting the NID registration now is practically impossible. I do not know what is happening with the NID Project, it seems that people are coming from the villages to get NID and can't even get anywhere with these.

For us to drive our agendas as a government, we are talking about a lot of great things. Decentralization of powers back to the provinces to take control and start driving our economies. There is still a lot of things that needs to be taken care of. We the provinces are taking this on board ourselves to see how best we can work with our people to achieve the

government's bigger program. And we are also now faced with the fact that not every province is the same.

There are some provinces that do not share the same privileges as other provinces. As you know, the provinces are as strong as their internal revenues. A lot of us do not have access to funds; for example, the LNG project, or from mining, or forestry, while some provinces are blessed, the others have to struggle. The little revenue that some make goes back to supplement the factional grants that come out from the government. This is because sometimes there is not enough funds coming down from the system into the provinces. We now have to divert most of our internal revenue into the administration to support the work of the administration in the provinces.

And there goes our development agendas, we as a government need to sit down and seriously look at it. We have big issues about funding and finance. We can't keep relying on the National Government for money. The talk of decentralization of powers has to be done quicker.

24/04

The talk of decentralization of powers has to be done quicker and sooner. We provinces are tired of being beggars. We are tired of begging the National Government. We are tired of having to make appointments everyday only to find out that the Ministers are not available. We have our people kicking on our doors every day. And how do we answer their question? The talk of decentralization of powers has to be done sooner rather than later. We want to get on and run our business and run our affairs. We are leaders, we know what to do. We know how to drive our provinces. We have a better structure and set up in our provinces and we can manage our provinces on our own.

So for us to drive a bigger agenda for this country and to contribute meaningfully to Papua New Guinea, we provinces can do a lot. We just need the powers to do it. With that I would like to say that I support the issue of decentralization of powers and the sooner we do this the better it is for our country. Thank you very much.

Media Must Promote Positive News

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU (South Bougainville – Minister for Information and Communication Technology) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to also take part in the debates on issues.

I want to speak about the reporting done by the media. As the Minister responsible for the flow of information going out to our people, I am not pleased with the trend the media has taken towards reporting in our country. This trend is portraying a bad image of our country to other countries. That is because the reporting done by our media personals today are sometimes not facts. I have a similar background. I was a radio broadcaster, a reporter with the *National Newspaper* and the *Post Courier*. There is something called a Code of Ethics in reporting. That means your reports must be balanced. Your reports must be double-checked to make sure it is fair. You journalists needs to get your facts right when reporting about the happenings in our country in both the government and the private sectors. There are so many factual things happening out there. Good positive developments are happening. Why don't the reporters go down to that level? Talk to the village farmer who has become a businessman through his cabbage garden plantation. Give him a featured article. Make sure he gets recognized for his hard work.

And so as a leader, I am not defending leaders but I am saying that most and if not all the leaders in this House have done their work in serving the people by providing basic services to this country. They deserve good publicity and that includes everybody else who has done something good for this country. This country belongs to you reporters, you belong here. You must make sure your reporting must help this country to progress forward because this country belongs to all of us. So please take some ownership and be a patron of your country. Do not sentimentalize your stories just to make profits

25/04

On February 11, 2020, this week, I released a statement, and on that report. I urged the reporters to give the members of Parliament a fair reporting on mainstream media. Of course, we cannot control social media, especially Facebook. But on mainstream media, our two main newspapers and other daily newspapers, it is a very important issue. We need to feel in our hearts the need to promote our country.

Issues like the picture and story in today's *Post Courier*'s. The front page story was about reporters not being able to access a door in the National Parliament to interview Members of Parliament. What sort of picture are we trying to portray to the outside world? I don't think that's responsible reporting. Who is the reporter responsible? We must make to have the correct information. Let's not rush quickly to the press, collate the information properly. There should be more investigative reporting.

I call on the universities, Divine Word University and the University of Papua New Guinea to train the reporters well. I don't want to see journalists just sitting down and waiting for the press statements to run without balancing the story.

We are all should have the same of promoting our country. I'm very concern about this and I don't want to see this kind of things happening. Leaders are leaders and they should be given prominence for the work they do in serving the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand here expressing my grievances about this issue. As Minister responsible for the media inside the country, I don't think we are able to regulate media in this country. We must encourage our media to report factual stories. As journalists you are trained to seek information about a story and balance the story so the reader reads both sides to a story. There are also protocols in place on how you get your story.

Therefore, I am urging our good journalists and citizens of Papua New Guinea to balance the stories going out on media; both positive and negative. This is our country, every piece we write leaves an undeletable mark in history influencing perceptions. These are very important people both domestically and internationally. Now at this time when we are going through tough times in our country. Why report on all the negative issues of our country, when there are a lot of positive things that the government has done. Report on these positive things.

A lot of times we report on the negative issues of the government, when we see something negative, it's suddenly a front page story.

Let us be responsible and work together, I urge all media to work with me and my Department. If you are unable to get in touch with a member of Parliament to be interviewed, come to my office and I can assist you in organizing the interview. Enough of these one-sided stories, balance your stories.

This is our country and it is our duty to show the world that we come from a good country. We are thinking that we the members of Parliament are not doing a good job in running the country but the media also plays a big role in this. The media has a very big responsibility in ensuring that this country is promoted in the eyes of the world.

26/04

This country deserves to gets what it deserves, the government in place now must get the publicity it deserves and not just negative stories.

So Mr Deputy Speaker, this is part of my grievance. I am not happy about it. We need to put a stop to this. There are lot of very good development stories that are happening in the

electorates and in the districts. Go visit them and write about them. Don't just sit here in Port Moresby or elsewhere and spectate, get yourself out there and become a better reporter.

Media – Report Balanced News

Mr POWES PARKOP (National Capital District) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker for giving me the privilege to talk since I was quiet the whole week. I thank the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the other ministers for listening to our Grievance Debate from the back benches. I also commend those colleagues who spoke before me.

It is a very good debate, I agree with the Minister for Communications. It is very important that everybody understand that we have a shared responsibility to our people and our nation. That must be foremost so whatever we do or say, we have a shared responsibility. If they fail, if I fail and everybody fail, our country and our people will suffer.

Just to emphasis on the comments by the Minister for Communication, here in Port Moresby, the reporters tend to report more on our enforcement officers' brutality towards street vendors. They emphasise on the street vendors rights without balancing the story from the enforcement officer's point of view.

Port Moresby has more markets than any town, city, district or province. Other towns like Wewak have only two or three markets. Port Moresby has enough markets for everyone. We are still building more markets, but the reporters fails to report about our efforts instead they report about the vendors who breaks the law. We trying to organise them to sell their goods in a safe, secured and healthy way. This is just an example.

I want to add to the comment by the Governor of New Island. He is starting the war on illegal logging and I am pleased with his approach. It is very important to take care of what we have. It is the last of the world and it is going to be most valuable asset anywhere in the world; our rainforest and our reefs. It's a carbon sink, the world will need us and we have a moral responsibility to the world. I wish the Governor well.

I would also like to support the statement by our Minister for Agriculture. His comment was very valid, before I go to my grievance I want to commend him too.

All members of Parliament undergo intense scrutiny. Of course, we have to be scrutinised because we chose to be here. But equally those that sign cheques must be scrutinised as well; the public servants.

Mr Deputy Speaker, they have done this for 20 to 30 years because they are protected by the law. They will be there longer while we serve for just five years yet we are subject to intense scrutiny which is fine because we must be held to high standards.

Why is the media not following up on them? Why is the Ombudsman Commission not checking up on them? Even the social media did not label them as corrupt.

But our Member from Maprik and the Minister, he was a business man in Kokopo before he went to contest in Maprik. His reputation is at stake, it was destroyed swiftly. So I want to emphasis on that.

I also commend our Governor for Central province on his good speech for our people and province.

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I like the things you said and your plans for Central Province. I would like to add my grievances as well. My concern is about our young people and their pathway.

Create Comprehensive Plan for Youths

Mr Deputy Speaker, 70 per cent of the total population in our country are under 30. We are the minority. The young people are now the majority of our population. This gives us a big challenge. They will need space to go to school, they need scholarships, they need employment, they need income and if they get sick they need space in the hospitals and everywhere else. They need opportunities to start businesses. It is a big challenge and it is a national challenge. I want to highlight this national challenge that we are not serious about it.

We are only putting effort into formal education, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is good that we must contribute and continue to support formal education. But formal education is like a pyramid, it only consumes a small percentage of our young people. Only five per cent make it into universities. 80 000 young men and women come out from secondary schools. Where will they go? Only 5-10 percent make it into tertiary institutions. What is happening to the rest of them? This is a big national challenge. We must take this matter head-on.

This month, I am pleased that the Treasurer and the Prime Minister, although it was tough but they led the discussion inside the Cabinet and we approved the extension of the Urban Youth Employment program in the city.

Mr Deputy Speaker, honourable members, it is not a perfect program. It has its flaws but the thing is, in the absence of any comprehensive national youth program, the UYE program is there as a stepping stone for those who are pushed out and were not awarded scholarships, like HELP, AES, HECAS or TVET.

This program caters for those who stream into the city, especially our capital city. We tried to accommodate them, to create a pathway for them including those who are born and bred here. It is not easy for us. That is why we have been doing this program. The National

Youth Commission now known as National Youth Development Authority never had a program all these years. The comprehensive youth program has been created to cater for these many thousands of young people to have a brighter future.

So thank you Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Treasurer. I am pleased with all of you. I know it's not that easy. The agenda in the Parliament that the people in the rural areas are the majority and you promote the rural agendas whilst looking down on us the people in the urban centres'. It is hard to advocate the urban agendas.

But I want to tell you today Mr Deputy Speaker, those of us in the urban areas might not have gold, copper oil and gas. But we are also equally fundamental to the national outcome. In the cities, this is where the national government is, where the ministers are, where the business is, where the foreign mission is, where the church is. They provide the service and this roll out to the rural areas. So we need the two agendas to go equally.

Improve Mt Hagen

As the Governor of NCD, I need some other arm to shape up and step up. As the Prime Minister is aware, I am not happy with the Member and the Governor of Western Highlands Province because they are failing me. They are failing all of us. Mt Hagen has the potential to hold half the sky for this country. Where our people can come get employment, run businesses, administration and such. But their political differences has caused Mt Hagen to fail all of us.

Mt Hagen has to be built to become a hub equally like Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul. It will be a pillar of our country in servicing our entire nation. If you go to Mt Hagen today, as the Deputy Speaker is aware from his travels, there are no proper sanitation for our people travelling in from Enga, Hela, Jiwaka and Southern Highlands Provinces. The bus stop at the Pope John Paul has no shelter to cater for the people travelling during the wet and dry weathers.

So I want to raise this for us to understand what we do in the urban centres. We are here to support you all. We are here to provide services and create an environment where businesses can grow, services can be here, administrative, cultural hub, innovation and creative ideas can happen in the urban centres whether it is about technology or some trend of dressing or food. So, we play that equal role as well. We must balance each other.

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Enlist Youths for National Service

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to highlight this about our young people. Prime Minister, I call for National Service. Enlist all these young people from the streets and from the villages

who are doing nothing and giving additional pressures to the parents. The parents have fed them long enough. Then they turned to drugs, alcohol, tribal fighting because they are idle.

We are leaving it to them to work out their own partway into the future. Many of them they don't have the mental capacity education to work it out. So, the State has the responsibility, parents also have responsibility too but when they grow matured, the state becomes ultimately responsible.

That's why I am always talking about enlisting them in a National Service organization like the military. Teach them some good basic skills, improve their hygiene, behavior, and discipline before they can come back.

It is done in Malaysia, Israel, Germany, and it's done everywhere in the world. Why can't we do it. So, the urban-youth employment program, I am happy that it has now expanded to Lae. The Member for Lae and Minister for Lands has supported it and he absolutely needs it.

It can further extend to Goroka and Hagen but we can renounce and stop the program if there is a comprehensive youth program that caters for young people.

Those who were pushed out or left behind can continue to think positively and contribute and have a brighter future.

But in the meantime, for those of us in the urban areas we are doing our part. I want to ask my colleague governors, work on your comprehensive plans? Don't depend only on TEVT or the education system because it is not enough to cater for and provide the platform for the young people to have a better opportunity into the future.

To conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to emphasize on one thing I see and its and the youth challenge as a national agenda. I want to propose that people in the NEC, Prime Minister, and those of us in the urban centers too, we are national agenda.

The Minister for Planning must listen, we are national a agenda. We need national support to support all the cities and towns to live. It is the hub for all of us. If Hagen is progressing well and Lae is progressing well, Kokopo, Rabaul is progressing well, Goroka and Madang too; It will serve all our people, accommodate, and soak all our people and we will prosper.

Mr Deputy Speaker, now that we have DSIP and PSIP, we think narrowly in our confined to our local areas and we forgot our national agenda. We are talking about the national agenda. There are some initiatives for the national level that we must all talk about and contribute to so that it can help all of us in the provinces and in our districts.

First, is the youth, which I am talking about, second, is the illegal logging which the Governor of New Ireland has mentioned? These are national agendas. Third, of course is the infrastructure.

Advance the National Agenda

The Highlands Highway is very important to all of us. Prime Minister, if you want to get some loan to fix the Highlands Highway, just go and get it.

It's important to all of us for our economy and for our people. The Momase highway too. I have said it already, let's find a way.

Now technology and engineering innovation is at a very high level and why can't we build the bridge over Ramu and Sepik and connect Morobe to Madang and go to East Sepik and West Sepik and go to Jayapura.

We'll obtain a loan that is what we should all agree to do. The national agenda, it's for the benefit of the entire country. This is what I am submitting to all of us.

And if we have to sacrifice our DSIP and PSIP, we all should agree to sacrifice for the national agenda

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We can fix the Highlands, Momase, and Trans Highway from Port Moresby to Lae, if we want. We can build it and from Western Province to Gulf to Port Moresby and even all the way to Milne Bay then cross over to Oro Province. These are the national agendas. There are other national agendas too, violence is the big problem in our country. I have a lot of grievances to debate. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and all of us for our attention.

Motion – That the Grievances be noted – agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschaffen) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank Parliament for the first session this week

As I have been always saying, Parliament takes precedence of any other business we have, whether it be Ministers, Prime Minister, Member or Governor, the sole reason why we

are in Parliament is because we are legislators and voices of this House and as such I have confidence when senior ministers are present.

Let us maintain this next week. It is our responsibility as Members or legislators in this Haus. I thank those of us-members, who have attended this whole first week of Parliament session.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have tabled very important legislation and those respective Ministers in the coming week, we'll bring those legislation in for us to debate and pass, including some of the issues were currently raised regarding incidents like the Ombudsman Commission and the Police.

I am thankful that we put together and tabled that, ICAG will be brought forward in this year and the Whistle Blowers Act through the Prime Minister and Attorney-General. It will be an interesting week, next week. I encourage all ministers and members, whichever engagements or schedule you have, nothing is more important than attending Parliament and debating on issues that we have in this country.

With that Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a note before we move that we adjourn this sitting, is the media.

I am thankful that the Minister for Communication has noted and requested that the media must respond and report correct information.

As we all know as political leaders, most governments and nations are judged by perception and perception is control by media. So having media role played in this country is very important for us to shape the perception of our country and our people see us as leaders and how we communicate to our own people.

I bold, underline and italicise the statement made by Communication Minister that the media play a very important role and those reports need much factual and investigative reporting and must be up to date so that we don't put statements like "Parliament Haus is Broke." The Parliament is not broke, it has its appropriation and it is just an issue that we have not contextualizing those issues properly.

I urge the media personnel who are here, please report properly and sensibly. Provide a balanced story. And not to write a winning pitch just to sell the paper, for instance, Parliament is broke, it is not a trade store it is the government. The government has its money and budget that has been passed; therefore, I asked the media to report true statements.

Finally, I urge all the members in this House as Leader of Government Business, many of us are first-timers here, there are also of senior leaders to guide the leadership train and provide advice to us young leaders to follow.

When the senior leaders bring your own interests to the Floor of Parliament, its not appropriate for us, the young leaders.

So, I caution the senior members, when you come to the Floor of Parliament, talk in a way that is acceptable so the young leaders can follow you by example.

We urge all the leaders and members to work together because at some stage, you will realize that forces working against this House outside might be bigger than the forces holding us together.

At some stages as a nation, we must find stronger uniting forces that bond us as a Government and Nation going forward. Each honorable member on this Floor has a mandated duty, firstly to do is this country. With that, I say thank you and looking forward next week.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament now be adjourned.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m.