

## SEVENTH DAY

Thursday 20 February 2020

## DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

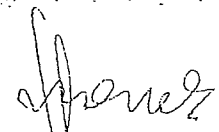
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HARRY MOMOS

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

## SEVENTH DAY

Thursday 20 February 2020

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Jeffery 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 Bells.

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again resumed the Chair at 11 a.m, and invited the Member for Ambunti-Drekikir, **Honourable Johnson Wapunai** to say Prayers:

'Dear Gracious loving eternal God in Heaven. We thank you for this day and the past days that you have lead us, guide us and given us wisdom that we deliberated in the past meetings. Lord we once again need your presence this morning. Give us wisdom and understanding. Direct us, guide us as we deliberate on today's meeting. Lord, thank you for *happen*. We invite Heaven to be with us again this morning in our meeting. Bless us and lead us once more. We also pray for the Prime Minister and the team that is in Fiji this morning. Lord their travel is for the purpose of this country. Give them wisdom, help them, and guide them as they deliberate in their meeting. So whatever that comes out from their meeting is a blessing to Papua New Guinea at large. Thank you God, we ask for Heaven's forgiveness if there are shortfalls in our lives. Renew us this morning with the blood of Jesus. Make us new, clean us and let us be prepared for the discussion as we go through in our meeting today. In unison, let us pray together the prayer that you taught your disciples'

## QUESTIONS

### Road Traffic Act 2014

**Mr GINSON SAONU** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. These questions are directed to the Treasurer and I want Transport Minister and Minister for Justice and Attorney-General to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Treasurer regarding *Road Traffic Act 2014*. Honourable members of Parliament and the governors, these are very important issues so when I ask questions, I would like you all to understand where I am coming from

because it concerns the provinces. Let me give you some background before I ask my questions.

There are high legal implications from the new *Road Traffic Act 2014*, particularly on the internal revenue generating capacity of the provinces. It is unfortunate that all 22 provinces were not widely informed or made aware through consultations when the *Motor Traffic Act* regulations were repealed resulting in the passing of the *Road Traffic Act* by the Parliament in April 2018.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the original functions of the Provincial Traffic Registry was to exercise its delegated powers to carry out road safety awareness, educate road users and to collect internal revenues through the imposition of fines and penalties.

**02/07**

The legislative landscape has now changed meaning the old motor traffic has been repealed and the imposition of much higher fees and penalties under the *New Road Traffic Act 2014* has created much controversies and tired up lots of public debates. The Provincial governments are bodies created and established by *Section 5* of the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government* and the *Provincial Government Administration Act 1997*.

All revenue collection functions have been delegated to the provincial governments under those laws. All provincial traffic registries functions were also delegated to provincial governments. But, the Department of Transport in 1987 and that function was again redelegated to the Motor Vehicle Insurance Limited to collect all on behalf of the provincial government.

The necessary legislative instruments facilitated such that transfer was by means of memorandum of agreement and provincial laws.

There has been ongoing dialogue between all relevant stakeholders especially the new National Roads Traffic Authority and respective provincial governments. The ongoing dialogue has paved the way for MOUs to be answer between respective provincial governments and the National Road Transport Authority.

All parties have come to the negotiation table and presented their points of view that the interpretation of the laws, operations and functions, grievances, and revenue collection figures which has been in the lead for acceptance and actual implementation of the new *Road Traffic Act* and subsidiary law.

So far, the National Road Transport Authority and provincial government have exchanged MOAs already and their respective technical team and lawyers are reviewing these MOAs with the view to finalize those MOAs for eventual signing and endorsement.

These MOUs are an instrument which encompasses and captures the view points and arguments of stakeholders, and serve as a tool for corporation and mutual understanding.

Prior to the new legislation, traffic registry.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honorable Governor, you are making a statement. Ask your question?

**Mr GINSON SAONU** – I just want to give background informative that I would like to ask the following questions to the Treasurer. I am talking about making money for the provinces so other Ministers must take note.

My questions are:

(1) Is centralizing the collections of fees and fines in Waigani under National Road Transport Authority in the best interest of the provinces and is it in accordance to the spirit of sharing national wealth?

There is lack of consultation and awareness by National Road Transport Authority to the provincial governments on the new *Road Traffic Act*.

(2) Is the forceful action by the National Road Transport Authority (NRTA) to sign MOAs with provincial government's an act of suppression of powers enjoyed by the provincial governments?

It is a tactic I call, "pushing down the throat" against ones wish whether one likes it or not.

(3) What is the rate of reliability and an effectiveness of National Road Transport Authority in remitting to provincial government their shares? Can Morobe provincial government collect fees and fines, retain its share and remit national government's share to National Road Transport Authority?

(4) The rate charge on fees for fines and traffics infringements under the new act are very high and the haves will survive and have-nots will unfortunately be denied. Can this be reviewed and adjusted?

03/07

There is a white elephant which is at 9-mile waste station in Lae standing idle.

(5) Can this facility be transferred to Morobe Provincial Government to manage and collect fees as part of its internal revenue?

We are capable of operating it. Thank you.

**Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY** – Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the good Governor of Morobe Province for his comprehensive brief.

Quite honestly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can't even keep up writing down those questions to be able to respond to him. So, to do justice to those questions, may I ask the Governor to forward those queries to me and I will have the Treasury Department and my office respond back to you. Thank you very much.

### **Suspend Implicated Officers**

**MR ISI HENRY LEONARD** – Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker for recognising the people of Samarai-Murua. I want to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Davis Steven and the good Minister for Public Service and also Minister for Provincial Affairs to take note.

Last year in May, when the Government changed in this House, there was a bold statement made that, this Government which I am part of, will take back Papua New Guinea. It will also fight corruption at all levels of Government. After the change of Government, certain department agency CEOs of statutory organisations were arrested and charged by police for certain offences committed while serving in those respective offices. They were then released on bail and those whose cases are pending in court, continue serving in their positions.

Can the Acting Prime Minister suspend the implicated and appoint the officers within the department on acting basis until the case is finalized?

I am asking this question because these officers continue employment in the same office they occupied when committing the alleged offences. Does that mean our government is supporting corruption instead of doing away with corruption?

Thank you.

**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** – Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I also want to thank the Honorable Member for Samarai-Murua for this important question.

It is a relevant question, especially in light of House the legislation that we have passed starting with the *Whistle Blowers Act* and also the introduction of the ICAC Bill which



reaffirms the commitment of the Marape-Steven Government in ensuring that we put the foundation work in place to deal with what appears to be an important concern in our country today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as we will recall from the debate that was generated in respect to the Bill on the whistle blowers, the focus is, primarily now towards the employer and employee in the public space were the issues that the Member for Samarai-Murua has raised are focused on.

Indeed, my personal view, the country must come to a position where we fight corruption seriously, that we not only talk about it, but put in place the legislation and the necessary subordinate regulations where heads of departments are concerned especially the *Public Service Management Act* and other acts concerning employment within the Public Service

04/07

In respect to those officers who have been implicated or charged and remain employed, it depends on their employment contracts. Their contracts must be examined and proper actions be taken. I want to emphasise that the law as it stands at the moment gives the presumption of innocence. The *Constitution* is very clear on that, the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. That is the over whelming position that the Government must always be mindful about, but further down, specific legalisation for the Public Service or statutory organisation, provide for matters that pertain to discipline.

The Honourable Member has made a very generally statement in respect to certain officers being suspended, or certain officers having been charged and have not been suspended.

I would like to ask the Member to give me details of those officers, so specific cases can be studied and appropriate action taken.

Thank you.

### **Comply with Oil and Gas Act**

**Dr FABIAN POK** – I want to raise my question to the Minister for Petroleum and this is in regard to an oil field called Pasca Field owned by a company called Twinza.

When I was there, they applied for Petroleum Development Licence, and I was then invited to go to the flaring to see that oil and gas was there. I am reliably informed that they are pushing to own the licence.

I want the Minister to clarify this issue. Before you issue a licence, the company must drill three wells at different parts of the prospect area to confirm the reserves before the petroleum licence is given. They have done only one. I have heard that we are now trying to issue the license.

(1) Can the Minister confirm that the company has gone back and drilled two more wells to prove the reserves?

If they haven't, then we will break our own law and the slogan "Take back PNG", will mean nothing! We have issued the Petroleum Development Licences in the past without fulfilling all the requirements and we have faced so many problems.

If they have not drilled the two wells, then we cannot break our own law by issuing the Petroleum Development Licenses.

(2) Is the Minister aware that two years ago, it was published in the Australian Financial Review and the Washington Post that Twinza placed Pasca fields on the market? If we issue the petroleum development licence, it's a bankable document and they might sell it. This is a small Western Australia company that doesn't have the finances. We have to be very careful.

(3) Can the Minister clarify whether he has seen this publication?

This is because Twinza, at that time did not clarify why they tried to sell it? When they failed to meet all the requirements of the *PNG Oil and Gas Act*.

Thank you.

05/07

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – I thank the Member for North-Waghi and my immediate predecessor for this important question.

I would be surprised if it were a conditioned precedent that a license holder necessarily ought to do three drillings before they even apply for a Petroleum Development License. It may be in the work program requiring them to do a maximum of three drillings but imagine, what if you struck luck on the first drilling.

**Mr Fabian Pok** – Point of Order! It is a requirement under the law and former Petroleum Ministers know that you need to dig a minimum of three wells to prove the reserve, not one well. I have gone there and I have seen the flarry, it shows that there is oil

and gas there but to prove the reserves in order for production, you have to drill three wells so please do not mislead the Parliament.

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – Mr Deputy Speaker, if he sat down and listened, I qualified my answer, I said, “I am not sure if the requirement of three drillings is a conditioned precedent to the grant of petroleum development license”. I was trying to explain that when he intervened.

If the requirement is to put down three drills but if you struck the jackpot on the first drill, you found a huge reservoir which can be sufficiently commercialised, do you necessary continue to do two or three other drills which will cost money? Or should you immediately come to the Government and tell them that there is enough reserved there that we can start to commercialise and do the two or three other drillings over time? That is the normal practice in mining and I am sure it will be same for petroleum.

I am not sure if the law actually states that you have to compulsorily drill three wells before you apply for a Petroleum Development Licence. For me, it does not make sense in the ordinary circumstances.

**Mr Fabian Pok** – Point Of Order! We have to drill a minimum of three wells to prove the resource before the Petroleum Development Licence is given. That is why the petroleum development licence was sitting on my table, because I asked them to go back and drill two more wells. Did they do it?

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – And that is the next point, Mr Deputy Speaker.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – I am going to do exactly that if it is the law. Of course, we intent to comply and that has always been our approach. If the requirements are that you must compulsorily drill three, irrespective of the whether you have struck the jackpot on the first or second drill, you keep going until you finish. So if that is the position of the law, as silly as it sounds, we will have to insist upon compliance and he can be assured that we will do that.

However, if the landscape is that you need to commercialise, progressively drill and investigate to do mining then that is the kind of approach we need to be taking. I was speaking from the assumption that you did not necessarily need to drill three, if you have

done one or two and you found a sufficient resource in order to start the commercialisation process then you should be given the liberty to do so and that is the way we are proceeding. But, if we go back to the law and verify his claim as correct, then we will come back to it and insist upon it, and the Member can be assured that we will follow the law.

However, if the position of the law is that it is not necessarily the case, then it is in our country's interest to proceed with the commercialisation. It is only a small project and it has a proven certified reservoir of point eight TCF just below one TCF but given the economics around it, the owners of the license believe that they can be able to commercialise that and then work on other prospects in the area. So, this is their approach but the State has not taken a formal position to enter into negotiation with them yet.

**06/07**

We will verify the position in law that the Minister is talking about. We will look at the issue properly from the Department's perspective and then I will progress that issue to the National Executive Council for approval. We have to set up a state negotiation team to negotiate a gas agreement before we go down to the processing of the application for the PDL.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure that if they had filed an application for a PDL as my friend alluded to, they would have done their own reading of the law. They would have felt that they had complied with the law already by drilling one commercial drill which is sufficient to allow them the liberty to apply as they have done.

They would have checked the law before they had applied. So, that is another point I am suggesting that without actually verifying from the law since the question has been raised, I will go back and review the issue to ensure compliance.

### **Supplementary Question**

#### **Twinza Gas Agreement**

**Mr ALFRED MANASE** -From the response the Minister for Petroleum the point 8 TCF is the basis upon which the gas agreement will be done with Twinza assuming they discover more; what will be the basis if they came up with a higher TCF than point 8 TCF?

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – We haven't commenced the process of assembling the state negotiating team (SNT) and for the SNT will then assemble the baseline template for the state and the mechanics that are to go behind the gas agreement. We are ahead of the ball game.

Perhaps he could wait another month or so, and ask me later so I will be in a better position to answer.

**Mr Alfred Manase** – Point of Order! From the answers he gave, I thought he said point 8 TCF. If that will be the basis upon which the gas agreement and the financial modeling will be done. What happens if in future, they find more than point 8 TCF?

**Mr KERENGA KUA** -I simply re-iterated my previous answer.

### **Scrutiny of Judges Conduct**

**Mr ALLAN BIRD** – My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister and the Attorney-General. It is in relation to what I perceive as a serious incursion by one arm of government into another arm of government.

Our system of government is designed on the assumption that we have three arms and each arm is separate and have very clear and distinctive functions.

This week, I noticed in the newspapers and in the subsequent discussions on social media, the Deputy Chief Justice giving a direction to a member of the executive arm, the Minister for Police.

In essence, the Deputy Chief Justice suggested to the Minister, a situation that did not exist in the facts that were presented before him.

I want to remind the House of the issue that occurred in 2011, when there were serious disagreements between this House and the judiciary. In that case, my view is that Parliament may have been wrong and overstepped its boundary by interfering in the judiciary.

I was a private citizen at that time but I wrote extensively about it in the media. I am concerned about what I perceive as a member of the judiciary stepping into our jurisdiction.

**07/07**

My questions are directed to the Attorney-General who has administrative oversight over the functions of the judiciary.

(1)Is it proper for judges to make orders on executive governments based on how they feel rather than on evidence?

(2)What is the acceptable behaviour for judges and who administers that?

(3)Should we in future review the way judges get appointed?

Mr Deputy Speaker, all of us here face the people once every five years so our method of appointment is automatic. It is decided by the *Constitution*. The judiciary's method of

appointment is not through the people. It is by a select group. I am sure most of us in this House do not know who appoints those judges but they constitute another arm of government. Should we review the way they get appointed, for instance, in some countries, judges get elected to the bench. We cannot assume that judges are automatically above reproach and cannot make mistakes. We need to ensure that the process of appointment is not only for us but the judges as well. So, it is captured in a way that there is a check and balance of their powers.

Finally, who holds the judges accountable? We are held accountable by the Ombudsman Commission, the Fraud Squad, all Members and the people. So, there are three separate groups that keep us accountable so who keeps judges accountable.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I also thank the Honourable Governor of East Sepik for raising a very important matter in this Parliament. The questions refer to a reported court case that appeared in our press. We know from the facts that are often printed in our media, and *Post Courier* in particular that this is a very important matter. I want to inform the Parliament that I have requested and I have received a preliminary report on the matter that the Honourable Governor of East Sepik has referred to. From that preliminary report, I know that the State is not a party to this particular court proceedings in question. It is as I am advised, a defamation matter that involves two leaders in this House, one being a minister and other an open member. That is the reason why, I am somewhat the perplexed that an application that had the effect to restrain the minister or somehow affect the conduct of the exercise of his executive powers. I am advised that the state was not served. I have now requested for a copy of the transcripts of the court proceedings which is basically the recording of what was said in the court and that is the only legitimate records of the court case.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I cannot comment on issues that are before the court mainly because I am unaware of the facts and also because it is in accordance with important convention that matters that are sub judice or currently before the court are allowed to proceed without debate here in Parliament until such time when the court inquiry is completed.

08/07

It is helpful that the Honorable Governor has phrased his questions Mr Deputy Speaker in such a way that it allows me to raise important observations.

(1) Firstly, on how leaders in the judiciary or judges conduct themselves in the discharge of their judicial functions;

(2) Secondly, on how the three arms of Government ought to operate in relation to each other's prescribed mandate under the *Constitution*.

The question also gives me the opportunity to reiterate Mr Deputy Speaker, that according to our *Constitution* the power, the authority and jurisdiction that the Government exercises belongs to the people.

I will make those observations bearing in mind, how I can have precluded my answer so that important discussions about the issues of national concern that have been raised are allowed to occur. These are relevant questions and I want to start by answering the last question.

Are the judges above scrutiny? Is there any oversight in their conduct and the performance of their duties? The answer is yes, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The *Constitution* is very clear, judges are obligated to prepare a report on what they do; cases they hear; cases they adjourn; the number of cases registered before them and how they are dealt with and issues pertaining to the administration of justice to the Parliament. That reporting condition is mandatory. It's prescribed under *section 187*.

When these reports reach Parliament, honorable leaders in this House have the opportunity to debate, discuss, scrutinize and see how the judiciary is performing. This Honorable House appropriates through the Appropriation Bill annually; the Budget that helps to fund the operation of the judiciary.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the recent discussion, in one of the earlier sessions, the Speaker himself referred to the constitutional provision that entitles both the Judiciary and the Parliament to be given the funding that they require where the budget is concerned as a matter of law. That is one area in which this House is responsible for ensuring that we not only fund them but hold the other two arms of Government accountable.

Whether it's the jurisdiction of the court, whether it's the authority exercised by the executive arm or the powers vested in this Parliament; these are peoples' power. That's why the founding fathers decided that the exercise of the peoples' power be vested in the National Government comprising of the three arms. There is supposed to be a separation and respect for the separation of these powers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, those of us whether in the judiciary or in the Executive Arm or in this Parliament must always remember that these powers that we exercise are to promote national interest - the interest of the citizens of this sovereign country.

09/07

It is not to be used to destroy or undermine institutions of government and I want to put on the record that members of this honourable house are some who are now facing contempt of court charges which they have gladly submitted too, for statements that were made on matters that were before the court but this question raises the specific issue of judge's conduct;

Yes, there is also a code of conduct that the judges have formulated and accepted by the (JLSC) Judicial Legal Services Commission that governs the conduct of judges. Our citizens or anyone who is offended or who has a reason to complain about the conduct of judges including delayed judgement, including behaviour that maybe questionable can be able to raise their issues first of all with the Chief Justice or the JLSC where I sit as chairman. I want to also place on record that JLSC has received complaints about the conduct of judges in the past and we have dealt with them.

We are at the present moment, dealing with complaints of certain judges which have been formally registered at the JLSC level. So, there is accountability. The *Constitution* also make the conduct of judges and all leaders of the three arms of government subject of the *Organic Law* on the Ombudsman Commission in other words, the leadership code applies also to the judges.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the systems designed by our *Constitution* are there. It's the intension of this Government to ensure that these systems and processes are respected and that we encourage them, and create integrity for the sake of our country.

On the question of appointment of judges, that matter prescribed by the *Constitution*. Of course when our founding fathers had to decide how the three arms of government were going to be constituted they found that it was expedient, it was important and convenient at that time that the selection of our chief justice our judges including magistrates had to be prescribed in law and that is the way it is today.

These laws are not entrenched in stone or tablet like the one received on Mt Sinai. If it is time and if it's appropriate, if it is decided or deem to be unnecessary by the representatives of the people who are gathered in this House that such reviews can occur, then so be it.



This Government is going to put in place a legislative program which will include instructions to the Constitutional Law Reform Commission. to enquire on some of these important issues, some of these matters that are entrenched in the *Constitution* which are now affecting us. We can look back and see those that are not appropriate in the circumstances of our country.

Yes, the systems can be reviewed and the opportunity will be given when the government through NEC finds it necessary.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

10/07

### Supplementary Question

#### Fast Track Misappropriation Cases in Court

**Mr PETER NUMU** – My question is also in regards to the conduct or the attitudes of the Judges, in particular, the administration of justice, misappropriation cases or fraud which involves millions of state money.

(1) Can the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister for Justice & Attorney - General take this into consideration to speed up those cases? We are heading into an economic crisis and we want to tighten up the systems of government to stop corruption. Give priority to those cases and let us show the end result and to see that this Government is serious with those misappropriations or fraud cases. Can they look into the administration of justice and fast track those misappropriation or fraud cases?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Honourable Governor of Eastern Highlands for his question.

Let me qualify by saying that in the exercise of the judicial function, the judges, and our courts are immune or protected from direction, control or any external pressure of sort any in how they conduct their functions.

In other words, there is obviously a concern about delayed judgements and the Honourable Governor refers specifically to misappropriation cases. When we look at misappropriation cases, Mr Deputy Speaker, they are nearly always criminal in nature. And Our *Constitution* gives the right to those who are charged to be brought for their cases to be dealt with expeditiously. They have the right to be protected and afford all the support that is necessary so that their cases are dealt with quickly.

I am happy to inform this Honourable House that the current Chief Justice during his appointment gave the undertaking that he would deal with the issue of delayed judgement and part heard cases. I am happy to say that in the report that has come to the JLSC, some improvement is beginning to show. I want to commend this Honourable House because, in supporting the Judiciary increasing we have provided the number of retirement age and also the number of judges that can be appointed, we have allowed the third arm of Government the ability to recruit and to retain and we have done that with the specific intention that the Judiciary is assisted so, it dispenses justice to our people in a timely cost-effective manner.

I noted the Honourable Governor's concern and in the normal course of my interaction with the Judiciary, I will raise these issues. Thank you.

11/07

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

Motion (by **Mr Koni Iguan**) put –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the time for questions without notice this day being extended by 20 minutes.

There being no absolute majority, motion not carried.

### **IFMS Ineffective**

**Mr KONI IGUAN** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do not have the support but I have the floor.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have two questions for two separate Ministers. Therefore, I can't ask two questions at the same time so maybe I would put it on Notice and you can give me another chance tomorrow for another question.

My question today will be to the Minister for Finance, and Leader of Government Business, Member for Finschaffen, Honourable Rainbo Paita.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr KONI IGUAN** – Mr Deputy Speaker, this will be the Minister's first question for the year 2020. So I wish you a happy 2020 year.

My question is in regards to implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). Mr Acting Speaker, Minister I would like to ask you. There has been a lot of problems faced because of the IFMS. Many members have complained that the system is not functioning properly and the elections are approaching. When will we start doing our jobs? IFMS System has to be used only where there is power and network. Some of our electorates are outside the network coverage area. IFMS system cannot function because of so many factors. I am aware that there have been many complaints already at table.

(1) Can the Minister inform this House, what is the real problem that caused the Finance Department to remove the system?

The old system was effective in helping us to implement things quickly so what really caused the change. Can the Minister tell us, how the Department is now addressing those issues on the IMFS? I must congratulate the Minister, since I am happy because he opened the accounts early in the New Year. That was good. But now I can't access my account because I am still waiting for the provincial budget to be approved. The Treasurer can take note on that.

(2) Can the Minister have a system in place where provincial budgets when presented to you can be vetted quickly and approved so that we quickly implement our projects under District Treasury?

(3) Can the Minister guarantee this House that the system will help us?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr RAINBO PAITA** – Thank you Deputy Speaker. I thank the good Member for Markham for that very important question.

I note that his question represents the concern raised by two other members during Government Caucus and at the same time there were others in the form of writing as well registered through the department.

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I have registered few of those concerns raised by districts who have been part of the IFMS roll-out system.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have four questions if I can recall correctly from the good Member.

The first question is, why was the system changed? Mr Deputy Speaker, I think the government at that time were looking at integrating the entire government's financial system not just to have systems that were isolated and operated but have a more holistic government system.

There were plans set out by the Department and endorsed by the then government in 2015 to have the IFMS roll-out.

And vendor was chosen to pilot the project and six of our provinces were selected to piloted the IFMS program as well.

I won't emphasize on the issues that were raised in terms of the implementation and roll-out of the IFMS itself, but I will respond to the question of why the system changed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, some of the members in this Parliament will appreciate transparency and visibility to the accounts. Some of the members would know, previously the district treasurers didn't give us the reports, when we asked for them to provide it. But, now with the advantage of the IFMS, you can just check through the integrated system using any government account whether it be provincial, local, or sub-national which is the province or district or even the Department of Finance can access to see the procurement or the implementation of the funds that you get through those funding for the districts.

Since taking office, the biggest issue was the need for a transparent system. A system that is accountable where we can all see reports. So, that was why the system was changed; for us to improve to a new integrated and more connected system.

Secondly, Mr Deputy Speaker, what is the government or the department doing in terms of the teething issues that we have? I think it needs more holistic approach from the government. There are few issues we have in terms of implementing the IFMS program on the ground;

(1) IFMS is dependent on internet connectivity. It is quite difficult for those districts that do not have the internet connections. Given the geographical terrain, Mr Deputy Speaker, some of the districts were so isolated they cannot access the internet.

(2) Power source. Few provincial governments have written to me and explaining that they have power issues. They have asked if we could look at the system itself. These are the infrastructures that need to be in place before we roll-out the system.

(3) The most important one is the training. Many public servants don't know how to type journals or enter requisition forms. Each of the districts need to upskill those existing district treasures so that we can be able to use the system.

Through my department, we are looking at improving those systems. We are working with the vendor who is responsible for giving us the system. We want to customize the system, make it flexible whilst at the same time take into consideration those issues we have in those pilot districts.

(4) The issue of, is it becoming impediment to the implementation of those district priorities in terms of raising cheques to implement projects? Mr Deputy Speaker, I think, we must think of balance view. The system in some aspects is good. It is quite efficient but sometimes it is not the system, it is the user itself. So, there is one thing that we must appreciate that the system in itself, their attempts and principles around why we are using IFMS is good.

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But its the system we have now, issues that we have how we adjusting to the new system. I think the best way forward which I have suggested to my department was, many of our districts, we have not set up our districts tenders board yet and we are procuring below K500 thousand. Another way to expedite in terms of implementation is to get those district tenders board establish as soon as possible and I have made that comment to Government as well as other Members that if you have no district tenders board, we should carry up quickly so that you can expedite procumbent of those projects with in and in line with your district budgets.

On the last question, Mr Deputy Speaker, will the system help us? As I said holistically the system is good. Number one as a Government we have accounted the process very accountable towards the close of the account, we can actually check which departments are procuring what and which sector have been paid.

There is a control mechanism in place compared to previously. These are some issues and I thank the good Member for raising this and we will address those issues which he has

raised, considering many issues raised by other Members as well so we will fix them in due cost but, I can assure the House that the system is the output with good intention. It is just a mechanism, infrastructure and the training that we really need to find and the problem, the final problem is that, we have insufficient budget to roll out IFMS in terms of the support infrastructure,

I hope that I can work with the Treasurer and going forward we can have some additional funding to roll out the complete IFMS including those issues where we can take on board. Thank Chair and Member for that question.

### **Supplementary Question**

**Mr POWES PARKOP** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to allow me to raise questions to the Finance Minister.

The other day when we are passing the *Whistle Blowers Act*, I raised concerns about all these instances we are putting in place, processes.

We are doing it with good intention, but the down side is that, the process becomes too hard for us to achieve the outcome. Now we have another system which is a little complex. Of course, we want to stop corruption, but we have to find a way that they can balance between the process and the outcome.

That is one of the key reasons why I raised this concerned the other day. I am not against the *Whistle Blowers Act*, but I want us to have a balance so I will go directly to my two specific questions. One is about the National Procurement Commission. This procurement commission, Mr Deputy Speaker, for us in NCD...

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honorable Governor! Question time is up. The Chair will recognize you tomorrow.

14/07

### **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT – PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION OF TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

**Mr SASSINDRAN MUTHUVEL** (West New Britain – Minister for State Enterprises)  
I present the following pursuant to statute:

*National Development Bank Act – 2018 Annual Report*

I ask leave of Parliament to make a statement in connection with the Paper.

Leave granted

Mr Acting Speaker, it gives me great pleasure as Minister responsible for the National Development Bank Limited (NDB) to present to this Parliament the 2018 National Development Bank Annual Report as required under *section 33(1)* of the *National Development Bank Act 2007*.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 2018 NDB Group made an operating profit of K6.8 million before declaring an after tax profit of K10.1 million after loan impairment recovery of K3.6 million in compliance with international accounting standards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB has been operating profitably over the last eight (8) years from 2013 to 2018 despite the reduction of its interest rate from an average of 16 per cent to 6.5 per cent in 2013 to implement the National Government's SME Stimulus Policy resulting in the reduction of profitability of the Bank, as there were reduced funding from the Government. However, it is pleasing to note that the demands for MSME loans have increased on an average of 20 per cent per year. The board and management have been resilient in their efforts to support this very important Government intervention to stimulate the growth of MSMEs in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB has implemented the National Government's SME stimulus package from 2013 to 2018 by lending over K586 million to the MSME sector at the concessional rate of 6.5 per cent despite the National Government providing only K273 million over this period. NDB has funded a lot of indigenous businesses and championed financial inclusion in the country meeting the hopes and aspirations of the silent majority who wanted to participate in the growth of the local economy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, following the successful implementation of the National Government's SME stimulus package and the remarkable performance of the NDB board and management, I am convinced that NDB is ready to be entrusted with adequate recapitalisation of K200 million annually so that NDB can increase its lending to the Agriculture and MSME sector to assist our Government to create wealth for our citizens thereby taking back PNG.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this will ensure that NDB's operations are sustainable going forward as the current operating model is unsustainable going due to the lack of adequate funding support over the last six years that has resulted in reduced profitability.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am extremely delighted to inform this Parliament that NDB has for the nine year in a row completed its external audits since 2010. NDB group's' financial statements for the 2018 have been audited by chartered accountants with unqualified audit opinion. This further affirms the improvement in the Bank's overall governance. NDB is the leading SOE in terms of implementing good corporate governance and best practice.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB has been the number one vehicle for empowering indigenous businesses in PNG. NDB is the PNG's business development bank and the only financial institution dedicated exclusively to local entrepreneurs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB is the champion of indigenous business and financial inclusion in PNG, representing the hopes and aspirations of this silent majority. The NDB group spearheaded the indigenous SME drive and brought this issue to the fore by hosting the 2011 and 2013 SME Summits and continues to support important National Government' policies on inclusive economic growth for the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB is the key implementing agency for the National SME Policy 2016-2030 that the National Government will use to grow the indigenous private sector to assist the Government meet its MTDP III, SDP and Vision 2050 objectives of reversing the current business ownership imbalance where only 10 per cent of our economy is owned and controlled by our citizen to 70 per cent in our favour of our indigenous people by 2050. It has already been at the forefront in promoting and supporting the implementation of the National Governments economic development policies through its lending programs for an inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB and its two subsidiaries; People's Microbank and NDB Investments offer a wide range of products and services to the MSME sector. People's Microbank offers loan products and savings account to the micro and small business including the informal sector. NDB investments offers business incubation products to its customers who want to operate under different business models. NDB Group has the capacity and capability to offer electronic banking products leveraging on modern digital technologies to the rural areas of PNG.



It has a total of 29 branches covering all four regions and operating in almost all provinces in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, NDB has continued to provide access to financial services over the last six years to more Papua New Guineans in all the communities to have access to financial services to start-up or grow their business activities and transition to SMEs and large companies. With more funding annually to the Bank, MSMEs and agriculture projects will be supported to meaningfully assist our people to engage in productive activities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we want see more Papua New Guinean's especially those in the countryside to have access to financial services to start-up or grow their business activities in the MSME sector and especially the Agriculture, Tourism and Fisheries sectors because these are sustainable industries compared to the extractive industries which have a short life cycle. NDB will continue to support funding nationals involved in agri-businesses to ensure food security, import replacements, explore export opportunities and increase employment.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the National Government for providing more funding support to NDB to lend to the Agriculture sector through the 2020 National Budget appropriations. More support should be given to the growth of the Agriculture Sector in the rural areas where the mass of our people are giving opportunities to participate in an industry they are already familiar with.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I am extremely pleased with the performance of NDB and I am committed to securing more funding for NDB in the coming National Budgets to sufficiently capitalise lending to the Agriculture and MSME sectors so it can roll out its operations across the country to provide critical banking services to our people aimed at creating wealth for our citizens as envisaged in our *National Strategic Plan Vision 2050* that will underpin the future prosperity of our nation.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

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

That the Parliament take note of the Paper and the debate be adjourned to a later date.

Debate adjourned.

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY – HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAMME –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED.**

Mr **NICK KUMAN** (Gumine – Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is a great honour for me to present to Parliament an update on the Government's Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP), how it is structured, how it will be implemented and what that means for the students, parents and guardians in the context of this key higher education policy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when Marape-Davis Government took office, the Prime Minister Honourable James Marape stated in no uncertain terms that Papua New Guineans are given the fullest of opportunity to pursue their dreams to full potential. The concept of HELP was devised to achieve this statement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, HELP was coined to help Papua New Guineans to achieve their dreams of getting educated with the help of the Government through accessing a financing facility that is fair and flexible and at no interest rate. The facility shifts the school fee burden to a later time.

**Government Policy on Higher Education**

Mr Speaker, the implementation of HELP hangers on the following key government policies:

(1.) The National Goals and Directive Principles - the National Constitution promotes Integral Human Development, and further translated under the Human and Social Capital Development as upheld by Pillar One of the PNG Vision 2050.

(2.) Vision 2050 - The GoPNG has endorsed and adopted the Vision 2050 as the blueprint for the development of the country over the next 50 years. This overarching policy is underpinned by seven (7) strategic pillars of which the first and foremost is Human Capital Development, Gender, Youth and People Empowerment.

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(3.) Alotau Accord II - some of the existing programmes under higher education were framed up under Alotau Accord II to deliver key social programmes.

(4.) PNG Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030 (PNGDSP) - The overarching Government Development policy framework gives prominence to human integral development as a key enabler of development. In respect to higher education sector, the PNGDSP outlines the notion of "Fostering rural development, poverty reduction and human resources development.

(5.) Medium Term Development Plan III (MTDP III) - HELP is consistent with the Government's medium-term development strategy.

(6.) Marape Manifesto -consistent with Prime Minister James Marape's Manifesto to increase the capacity in all higher education institutions for all eligible students and creating greater opportunity for Papua New Guineans to access higher education, the HELP facility is geared towards the agenda of the Marape-Steven government

### **Tertiary Education Student Assistance Scheme**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the existing Government policy on higher education is TESAS. It is the existing support programme earmarked at assisting students who qualify by merit through high academic achievements.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the TESAS structure is designed to compensate high achieving students in both tertiary and higher education institute (HEIs).

TESAS is designed in two parts; that is an Academic Excellence Support (AES) for University and Higher Education and Colleges Assistance Support (HECAS) for other categories.

Mr Deputy Speaker, currently the National Government pays the following:

- (1)University - Academic Excellence Support (AES) - K5,570 plus airfare
- (2)University - Higher Education C Assistance Scheme (HECAS) - K4,320 plus airfare
- (3)Non- University HECAS - K2,788 plus Airfare

Mr Deputy Speaker, from the aggregate 26,651 students projected to be enrolled for universities and non-universities in 2020, TESAS students under the TESAS program only 14,100 students with appropriate fees and airfares for students who qualify on GPA system, the balance of 12,551 students are self-sponsored and relatively few are corporate sponsored students.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this comes to an important point of our discussions in 2020 education program, the higher education loan program, the HELP.

The HELP program was approved by the cabinet through an NEC Decision No. 179/2019.

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This loan program is an optional financing facility that provides a fair and a reasonable way of continuing a new tertiary institutions to obtain the help from the government, in order to effectively implement and administer the HELP that government has structured a band of HELP limits consisting with existence to categories in all registered higher education institutes

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to announce the statutory loan allowable limits as approved by cabinets on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and they include; help band, the universities, the undergraduate programme under TESAS the AES category K15,000 and maximum allowable band under the HELP programme, Universities the under-graduate under HECAS K15,000 allowable maximum band, Universities the under-graduate self and cooperate sponsors K10,000, Universities post-graduate in honours and masters K15,000, Universities the post-graduate PHD students K20,000, non-universities that includes all the colleges throughout PNG under the TESAS Programme, the HECAS K10,000, non-universities and others, self and cooperate sponsors K5,000

Mr Deputy Speaker, to further clarify on this limits those students who are on TESAS facility who will all be entitled to apply for a balance of their TESAS scholarship in any band; for example, an academic excellence student can only apply for K9, 240 per annum while HECAS student can apply for K10, 680 for non-university student under HECAS can apply for K7, 212 of the K10, 000 limit and the self-sponsors can apply for K5, 000.00.

Mr Deputy Speaker, how does this process work? Non-school leavers students will be tied to the national online application system and the national online selection results will help loans will be available to eligible participants by the third week of December each year starting next year. All other tertiary institutions including school leavers or continuing students will be notified of their eligibility in the HELP programme by the second week of January the next academic year. Loan recipients will be notified of their loan payment for their institutions of their choice upon enrolment and data confirmation by the higher education institutions.

The department will conduct HELP awareness at the beginning of each year and for this year, our awareness programme to all the institutions right throughout the country will commence next month to explain to the students of the loan agreement application process and the legal implications.

Mr Deputy Speaker, while lodging the process proposed to roll-out the government banking scheme, may you also allow me to clarify the HELP loan repayment the government

intends to implement, the repayment of the higher education loan programme will be based on the terms and conditions of the HELP loan agreement signed between the individual student and the government of Papua New Guinea through the institutions administered by the Department of Higher Education.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is a great honour for me to present to Parliament an update on the Government's Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP), how it is structured, how it will be implemented and what that means for the students, parents and guardians in the context of this key higher education policy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when Marape-Davis Government took office, the Prime Minister Honourable James Marape stated in no uncertain terms that Papua New Guineans are given the fullest of opportunity to pursue their dreams to full potential. The concept of HELP was devised to achieve this statement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, HELP was coined to help Papua New Guineans to achieve their dreams of getting educated with the help of the government through accessing a financing facility that is fair and flexible and at no interest rate. The facility shifts the school fee burden to a later time.

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### **Government Policy on Higher Education**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the implementation of HELP is guided by the following policies:

An agreement signed between the individual student and the Government of Papua New Guinea through the institutions administered by the Department of Higher Education.

The repayment period will commence upon completion of the targeted undergraduate and post graduate programs and repayments of the HELP loans are expected to come into effect between six to twelve months after the recipient has commenced formal employment.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a standard rate will be applied to all loan recipients which will be deductible on a fortnightly basis. It is estimated that a total amount will be recovered between ten to fifteen years from the commencement of a formal employment.

The repayment rate can also be determined by the individual students based on the employment and the quantum of rewards that a particular student may receive during the employment. The details of repayment, due to unforeseen circumstances will be stipulated in the loan agreement which will be a legal contract between the recipient and the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for clarity purposes regarding misinformation that have been circulated since January this year on both social and mainstream media, I want to clarify the following information;

(1) TESAS program is a Government program that is offered to students who have done well academically through the Grade 12 examinations and this program will continue to remain. This includes the Academic Excellence Scholarship and the HECAS.

(2) TESAS will be awarded to high achieving students based on their GPA scored by students in any given academic period.

(3) All applicants for the HELP program must have a National ID and when you are employed you will be required to have a TIN. A TIN is a Taxation Identification Number for the monitoring of our repayment.

(4) TESAS students are eligible to apply for the loan which is to fill in the gap.

(5) Students who miss out on TESAS can apply to HELP for full allocation based on their respective limits.

(6) All applicants for HELP must be enrolled in an accredited higher education institution and that does not apply to students who are enrolled in private institutions which are not registered in the government system.

(7) All applicants for HELP will sign a contract agreement to agree to the terms and conditions

(8) HELP is an interest-free loan

(9) HELP will be managed according to the terms and conditions of the contract of agreement.

(10) Finally, as I have mentioned, earlier, HELP is optional and not mandatory for all students to obtain loan.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Marape-Steven Government's overarching focus of the higher education sector is to enable growth through improved access to higher education for its students to foster economic and social development outcome that meets overall government policy agenda.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in order to achieve the best outcome, the government has embarked on an efficient and prudent HELP facility with the view to enhance student enrolments and access to education through the initiative of HELP facility that is fair and reasonable.

Mr Deputy Speaker, based on the projected number of enrolments and registration for continuing and new students, we estimated a rate of 10-15 percent growth. However, I'm pleased to inform the Parliament that a total of 26,641 students were enrolled at the close of registration last Friday. However, the total figure may increase when all the institutions commence their classes, the category of the enrolments distributed amongst the higher education institutions are;

(1)University (undergraduate) -12,507 students

(2)University (postgraduate) -110 students

(3)Non Universities – 13,174 students

The growth experience in 2020 enrolments are attributed to one improved academic performance by school leavers in 2019 meeting the minimum qualification requirements. You will note that out of the 28,000plus student who set for the final examination in that programme, more than 50% has met the minimum requirement to enter into our higher education institution. The higher education institution only had 11,000 spaces that I note from the information that have been provided that students of more than 2000 that are placed on the pool are now has spaces right throughout the country.

Non-school leavers applying for self-sponsor due to the governments announce HELP programme as also applied to the arrangements. And as a result we are seen a significant growth by more than 2000 in the 2020 academic year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the total projected enrolment is inclusive of all respective University Campus established as part of an institutions roll-out programme and any other partnership arrangements. However, with the caveat that the figures exclude University centres' established for matriculation studies and or for upgrade of Grade 11 and 12 subjects.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in order for the Parliament and the wider stake holders to better understand the extent of the impact of HELP and the quantum of relief in easing potential financial burden it has on our student, I have done desk top analysis to ensure that the impacts the student will have is to ensure that will give them a fair go in our institutions.

There are two things that I want to stress. The first is to make sure that we take that dependency syndrome away from our students in this country. The government is currently paying school fee for our lower education system in the country in the last seven years which is continuing to this year going forward. We want to take that burden away. Higher education allows the student to become more responsible and build that strength in them by ensuring that they become responsible in the education that they undertake by securing a loan that is provided by the government.

20/07

Mr Deputy Speaker, going forward, the Department of Higher Education in its attempt to facilitate and implement the NEC decision has completed key policy and operating procedures to enable the full implementation of the HELP Program

In 2021 going forward, I will involve my powers under the *Higher Education General Provisions Act, section 165*, to determine the structures of tertiary allowable loans to be obtained by students in various categories.

Let me also inform this Parliament that for this year, all applications that comes in for 2020 semester one will be processed and by 27 April, 2020, we will close the application and process the applications for all the loans that need to be paid for the first semester. The second semester, at the close of the second semester through institutions, the loan process will be re-assessed based on the student's academic achievement. Those who achieve the minimum academic requirements acceptable by the institutions will continue to remain under the program. Those who have failed to meet those requirements will go back and revisit the loan agreement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude by saying, the Marape-Steven Government is committed to ensuring it supports to its citizens who aspire to realize their dreams in attaining their respective tertiary qualifications to launch their career path ways. The Marape-Stevens Government has given this opportunity for students of all ages to achieve their dreams for successful careers in life.

Let me assure this Parliament and the People of Papua New Guinea that the Government's HELP facility is complementary to the existing Government's TESAS program and it embraces both undergraduate and postgraduate including lower tertiary institutions.

HELP provides the financially underprivileged students a new sense of hope to achieve their dreams and aspirations. It is therefore the fairest inclusive and equitable way to help our citizens realize their dreams.

From a social perspective, not only will HELP relieve the immediate financial burden but it will also impact on students' behavior and mindset from the dependency syndrome that we are used to. The HELP will cultivate a culture of discipline and incubate a new mindset for those who will benefit from this loan to be more self-reliant and disciplined in their conduct in life during and after their tenure of studies.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.



**Mr PAIAS WINGTI** (Western Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to commend this government for taking this very bold and very important decision.

If you look at education, the Prime Minister and this government had taken the right decision because we have been leading our people in a way that the government of the country will provide them everything. It is time we redirect that course to realize that the people themselves must pay.

I think this decision is quite important under the Prime Ministers leadership and all of us who are here, the Governors and the Members of Parliament, sometimes it is hard to tell our people. They want to listen to the easiest and the sweetest things.

**21/07**

But that is not the right way to lead our people. Our people must be told that they must pay for it. Whether it's an education, whether it is health; they must pay some money for it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if we don't allow our people to think that way, they will become so dependent on the state. And the population rate is growing at 3.5 percent. The resources we have, the gas and oil are exhaustible. We are not able to put our people in the right way for them to do things themselves.

When you look at education, we are talking about the students who are going through grades 8, 9, 10 and 11. How many of them are still in the village, who are not getting an education? Papua New Guineans right throughout the country. How many are in the village? We are not talking about them, we are just talking about the percentage of kids who are going to school right now. I mean all of us come from rural areas. You ask yourself in your own electorate, how many people are in the villages. Are they getting any education or not?

Education is a serious business. A country's welfare and how a country progress is based on the quality of education in that country and its population must be educated. The Government has taken the right step. We have to sit back and look at all our electorates in all our provinces. Whether our people in those electorates, are the kids going to school or no? Every time we talk about education, we are forgetting the silent majority who are not getting an education. And when it comes to grade 8, we don't talk about the ones who are dropping at grade 8. We are just talking about those ones who are now going to grade 9. We are forgetting those kids who are dropping out at grade 8. Who is taking care of them? What is their future? And then when we get to grades 8, 9 and 10, the many of them are dropping out at grade 10. Where do they go? We are not talking about these grade 10s who are leaving. We are only talking about grade 10s who are going to grades 11 and 12.

After year 12, many of them leave. We need some clear detailed statistics on the population of this country. What proportion of the population of Papua New Guinea is educated and going through education? And what proportion is uneducated? Because if we don't get this right and get the formula right, what will happen is the well-off and few of us will send our kids to good schools. The others will come, the numbers will be small. The majority of the people of Papua New Guinea will not be educated. We are dealing with an uneducated population. That's why, Mr Deputy Speaker, at the government caucus, the Minister for Bougainville Affairs said the National Planning Committee which is supposed to be made up of the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister or somebody should sit down now and look at about 20 or 30 major projects. Give full attention to health and education because if we don't do that, the social problems will keep on increasing. When you have semi-educated or less educated and unqualified citizens, we will have a problem. So we need to assess that very, very carefully, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I commend the Government for taking this stand because our budget on social services is going to keep on increasing, and we keep on feeding free health, free education. That is cargo cult mentality. We are going to take a stand and said no. Who is the first person in education? The teacher or the parent?

**22/07**

Parents are the first teachers. They must be prepared to pay. Not all of but some part of it, because some remote areas of Papua New Guinea cannot afford the fees and I know that.

But they must make a contribution. People must take an ownership in education. If people of this country don't do it, we are heading for disaster.

So, I commend what the government is doing now. I don't want to sit and listen to everybody and we would give everything free. This is not going to take on and this is social area. Education and Health are so important.

I want the government and the two Ministers to give us exactly how many kids are not educated and they are in the village. How many Papua New Guineans have dropped out from grade eight and they are out there? How many Papua New Guineans have dropped out from grade ten and they are out there?

Every time we talk about education, we talk about the small proportion of Papua New Guineans going through the system. The rest are in the villages.

So, Minister for Higher Education, I fully support your initiative. It's a good initiative.

At least that policy must not change. The parents must pay in primary, a certain proportion must be paid in high school, tertiary and take ownership.

When they don't pay, they say it's a government's responsibility and they spend their money unnecessarily on betel-nuts.

Is that the kind of society we want to create? No! we want to create a society where people take ownership and look after their children and pay school fees for them.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, I fully support what the government is doing and this policy must not change. Parents must pay from tertiary down to primary schools. Thank you very much.

**Mr PILA NININGI** (Imbonggu – Minister for Inter-Government Relations) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I want to thank my colleague Minister for bringing this policy. It's been already talked about and the people haven't taken any actions yet.

Some of the obstacles you will face is, how you collect the money. Now we need to tie up with the IRC and make necessary amendments so that IRC can collect and remit to school accounts you have so that money made for payments can be easily collected.

Five years ago, they tried some policies and I've seen that, the policy had failed so in this case, it will fail too so you have to tidy up.

And Minister, the other thing that I've noticed is the *Higher Education General Provision Act*. Is it in an adequate area or is it in a conflicting area that you have to tidy up so that you can effectively take control of all the institution that come under your Ministry. I had a problem with it and I believe that you are attending to it now. You have my full support in order to make necessary changes so that we can effectively and smoothly adhere to the problems of the universities.

Some of the problems faced by the universities are brought on by the fact that they are autonomous; they have control and they abuse funds. The funds that universities receive are small and they go all over the place and start universities everywhere and started drinking and get drunk.

I've already spoken to one of the Vice Chancellors when I saw him twice. I made a mistake and appointed him - the guy could not recognize me. It is his girl friend that pointed out to him when she saw me and said, "That's the Minister." He was trying to shake hands with me.

We must act on those institutions. UPNG and UOG are the high-level university with trained teachers.

The lecturers and Vice Chancellors have to have a gut of high enthusiasm with sober habits therefore their students are future teachers that will learned from them. These are the institutions that must be considered in terms of missed management. They are abusing Institutions regulations and it must be tidy up by getting general probation act in order and once you have the control, you can can clean it. Thank you very much.

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – (Sinasina-Yonggamugl – Minister for Petroleum & Energy)  
Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am very happy to hear what the Minister for Higher Education has announced and also, I commend the supporting speech given by the former Prime Minister (Honorable Pias Wingti) about this issue.

The few comments I want to make is to echo what our former Prime Minister and leader has said about not creating a dependency and cargo cult syndrome amongst our people. We keep on talking about free this, free that and free the other and our people are increasingly more and more dependent upon us as the Politicians. They see us as one stop shop for their issues in life. Very soon, they will come to us to also lead them in some lotu or something like that too.

We must be clear about our responsibilities to them and tell them that somethings we can do, but some things we cannot do and we try to encourage them to do it the proper way. We have a very low tax base, Mr Deputy Speaker, in this country. We have a tax base of about 6,7, or 8 per cent.

In most other developed nations, is the reverse, formally unemployed people are in the same reign, 5 or 6 per cent. The People who are in the working age constitute the majority and therefore, they work and they pay a larger tax contribution and the government is able to do a lot of things and even put them on the door because he only caring 5 to 6% or even less of that percent.

But he asked a small minority of the people are contributing to the tax and we are using that to support of a 90 per cent of the population, almost everything in their lives. It is very implacable situation, we have a nation finds ourselves in. I think, we as leaders', we've got culture ourselves properly and communicate the right message to our people to understand that without tax contribution, council tax or head tax or without any form of tax except for GST, you can't expect us to do much.

There are limited things we can do and we will do those things. In many other things, we must create an environment of self-reliant. We used to talk about self-reliant many years ago, pause independent, we forgotten about that language ever since and now we are talking about almost funding everything from bad to death.

We got to change away from that mentality, we must talk the hard talk Mr Deputy Speaker, and educate our population. Some of our MPs, I noticed, they do try, drift and perhaps more by their hearts than by the power of their wallet to make a token approach to try to subsidized some school fee out of DSIP.

It creates a good perception, Mr Deputy Speaker, but the truth is, it hardly makes an impact. To those who qualify and need assistance in their owned district. The number of students who qualify and need that assistance is far more than the token assistance they can make with K500 thousand, K1 million at the max. It can't, it doesn't go to far and it doesn't even make an impact on the level of school fee that parents are exposed to.

Mr Deputy Speaker, by doing in-consistence things and taking separate approaches, we are creating a problem for ourselves within Government.

**24/07**

Some Members in the neighbouring district are doing it and they are asking, why aren't they doing it here It is just the management of perception. It does not make any impact they don't understand that. We have to take a united approach to do this. Should DSIP be used to fund school fees or not? We must take a clear position because we are exposing each other to problems by some districts doing it and some of us not doing it. We are using DSIP to fund health services, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges. We are putting it to other things and saying that parents should be carrying that responsibility.

According to my knowledge and experience, most of the parents have been carrying some of that burden, anyway. Since independence the government of Papua New Guinea has always funded the majority of the school fees on behalf of the parents for close to 49 years.

Mr Acting Speaker, that's a long period of time so inflation has increased and impacted the amount that the parents are expected to contribute' the amount seemingly has increased but it is just the inflationary factor. In fact, it's the same kind of burden that the parents were exposed to in 1975, at the time of independence. So, it is not an insurmountable obligation on the parents and the relatives, that's the beauty about it, we talking about Papua New Guinea.

We have vast extended family and relationship network system and the burden of finding school fees does not only belong to the parents.

We have the community that always comes together on important occasions. Why don't we mobilise the families to realise that one student's education, is for the wellbeing of the village, the tribe, the clan and even the district. Why don't we understand that they should lend a hand to contribute? Look at yourself as leaders sitting here, and think about who's been contributing towards your school fees as you grew up. Alright, your parents could have done that and brothers and sisters may have done that, or maybe your uncle would have. The wider members of your clan, your village, your tribe would have never contributed to your school fees, but now, when you standing here as a successful person; is your help limited to those people who have contributed or is it to everybody in that village and everybody in the tribe.

I think that is the case that we are supporting - everybody going beyond those people who supported us in school fees. And we must understand that, you stand in line to benefit the all villages, the all clan, the all tribe must contribute to who's going up to grade 11, grade 12 and university or a college. We are doing that already when it comes to a bride price, but I never hear a leaf rattle in the village when you are talking about school fees. When we contribute towards compensation payment, everybody is there; when it's bride price time. Everybody is there, when it's "haus kraï" time, oh! It's private business. But when it's time for school fees, no one is around.

People are ducking away from a responsibility that could potentially earn them so much in later life we need to bring that out, make them realise and make them contribute.

Mr Acting Speaker, we have to speak the hard words like the former Prime Minister Honourable Mr Wingti is advocating now to protect ourselves and shift the responsibility to the whole village, the clan and the tribe to take care of that.

Coming back to the DHERST issues and I commend the minister for taking the initiative and taking the ball down the right path and direction

Mr Acting Speaker, when implementing and undertaking the reforms, they need to consider two points.

1) Interest free - Everybody knows that money loses value overtime because of inflation. The purchasing power decreases overtime, so if you give somebody a thousand kina now, and claim the thousand kina back in ten years' time, it's not the thousand kina. It will buy much less. Therefore, I think that interest free is not a good proposition. He should look at the minimum preserving the value of that money, so that when it comes back, he can

recycle it and give it to the next student in line. If it diminishes in value then he or the future generations of minister will have to come back to this government and asked for additional.

25/07

But we need to set up this fund in a way that it is self-perpetuating in perpetuity. That can be done if you factor in some level of inflation.

2) The interest must not be compounded to the principle. Interest will only accumulate on the principle amount lend to make it manageable to the student and the parents so you only accumulate simple interest or interest is never accumulating compound but on the principal lend at a minimum of three to four percent. Therefore, I will not be significant but it will maintain the value of the K1000 that you have lend but in 10 years' time and you pick up the same K1000 plus the interest which has maintained its value in inflation and then you will lend it to another student.

So, it is good to start off on an interest free basis but we should not go too far down that track on an interest rate basis because the State will lose in the end and we have too many other responsibilities. Although it is a good approach, to make sustainable and long term but we have got to factor in some sort of interest maybe at a simple interest rather than compound interest.

3) This is a very important role that is being identified by the minister, the granting of the loan and more importantly the recovery of that loan has to be managed very delicately moving into the future because this is a long term commitment by the State. Once these sort of avenues are available to the citizens it will always difficult to undo it and the popular demand is to ensure that it exists.

I think that instead of putting it under the Education Department there must be a separate agency created simply for the purposes for making sure that the funds are lend to those who properly qualified in the first place, proper records are maintained and when those children move into an employment center the connection is drawn at the employers level or IRC or somewhere which will be the collection point to make sure that these money is collected and remitted back after having applied the correct interest rate back to the agency and that pool of funds should be kept to recycle it.

So, there is a need to create an additional agency perhaps as part of the Department of Education or Higher Education or some other place to make sure that this scheme is implemented properly.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Sir PETER IPATAS** (Enga) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not want to speak much on this issue.

But, firstly, I would like to commend the Minister for Higher Education for taking this initiative. It is easy to tell the Nation that we are going to have free education and for the other services too, I think honourable Wingti has spoken eloquently on that issue.

The position of the Government is that from Elementary all the way up to Grade twelve it is the parents and guardians responsibility to pay school fees but when they reach tertiary institution then the Government will step in. and, I think that the important message that we need to get across to our people is that we have politics on this issue and it is an easy policy where we can influence our people. We have been having free education for the last eight to ten years so many people thought it would be the same.

But, we as Members of this House we have to explain to our people that if we take the responsibility of paying school fees for our children from Elementary to Grade Twelve than the Government can save these subsidy and help when the child is at the tertiary level.

**26/07**

This kind of money must be placed at the university level as mentioned by the Prime Minister. The fees for universities and other tertiary institutions is very high so we must help parents; that is the message that we need to get out to our people. Fees from elementary to secondary level is for parents to meet. And the fees that we have imposed are adequate for them to meet. We must try to assist in the tertiary level as the fees are quite high. Many of the students in that category will find it difficult to attend schools.

We must make our people aware of where and what our stand is on school fee assistance. We must let parents know that they must try their best to find enough money to assist their children at elementary to secondary level. Find ways where you can find the money to pay those fees. This is the message that we must tell our people and it is good that our Minister for Petroleum brought up this question, as Members of Parliament can we assist through our DDA? I have gotten used to allowing free education for a long time. And many people think that I have made it free for always but I made it for only three years.

Previously when I first tried the free education for my province there were no students in schools and as time went by over three years the student enrollment increased and we could not sustain the policy. So, I had to go back to the parents and we had an understanding and cooperation with each other. I would tell them that this year I will build a new school so



you will assist me and pay a percentage of the fees of which they would agree and pay. So, if you hear that Enga Government was paying full fees, it was not true.

The parents paid their share and we must not under estimate their willingness to pay. After three years we are still telling the parents to pay for their children. Until when the former Prime Minister Peter O'Neill got into government and made it 100 per cent free. Under the TFF policy, there are some issues that we are facing in the last eight years that it was being advocated. We have compromised quality education. When there was no free education the classrooms had fewer students enrolled while during the years that we had free education, enrollment numbers increased.

This a bit aside of the subject from the statement made by the Minister for Higher Education but we must think about whether it is good for our country and through this system improve the quality of education so that we get hundreds of very qualified Papua New Guineans or we put three to four thousand students through the system and a lot of them end up unqualified. Because, the problem now is every student, if we keep on giving free education we are putting the minds of the students that they will become a lawyer, accountant or something. So we impeded in their minds that it is a free world and they do not work hard to achieve their dreams. They are so sure that they will become whom they want to be because they are in school and they will achieve their dreams but when their dreams don't come true because there is no quality education they can't go back to the villages.

**27/07**

That is why we are having a lot of misfits in this country. This is likened to a time bomb that we are trying to address. Each time we are talk about fees and it must be sent to our people that we to work hard to get to where we want to be and most of the time it will not be free.

And that we have come to a stage where the Minister for Higher Education must now really look at whether or not our standard of education is alright. Whatever money we use we must try to produce quality graduands, especially those coming out of the universities and colleges. When I went to the office of the secretary for Higher Education I was surprised to find out that under Australian standards, it seems that we produce diploma graduands at our University of Technology in Lae. Of course, we are not; but this is according to the Australian standard.

And that was something that shook me and we really need to do some work on that. So instead of talking about free education and forever assisting in paying fees,

maybe we should try to make students work hard to earn the type of education that will give them the job that they want. We should not provide free education and give them false hope of a well-paying white-collar job and we do not even have the jobs to cater for the number of graduands we have coming out each year.

I feel that quality education should be the key issue in our country. And that also brings me to a point where, all the provinces should take heed of and that is if we want to establish colleges in our provinces, for example, nursing and teachers' colleges in our provinces but are we meeting the standards. Are we providing quality standards in the colleges that we host in our provinces?

I support this policy but we must not compromise quality but going forward, we must really look at where we are going. I see after 25 years that while I was providing free education to my people, I have some questions on the policy, because the quality has dropped and job opportunities have become scarce.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is time that we improve our system to producing quality students so that if we support them, we know that our investment is worth it. So, we get quality products out of our investments. I support the decision of the current government to make sure we assist parents of students at the higher institutions. And allow our parents to take ownership from their level as parents to educate their children.

For example, in Enga if a parent or parents raise just one pig, there is good money in a year to provide for a child or three children's school fee. Pigs in Enga if it is a good size pig, can fetch up to K5, 000. I support the thought shared by the Governor for Western Highlands.

28/07

Let's support it. If we still allow for free education, we might destroy the country ourselves. It is now on the Floor of Parliament. As Members of Parliament we want to make sure our people are happy. But we must also consider, what will happen when we leave Parliament and what will happen to the next generation. Therefore, it is up to all of us to take a stand and take ownership of the situation. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

**Mr JOE SUNGI** (Nuku) – Thank you Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I want to thank the Minister for Higher Education and the Government for introducing this new policy.

I have two points I would like to share in light of the HELP;

(1) Firstly, I would like to know what the responsibility of the National, Provincial and District/LLG levels in assisting to implement this program? You need to make it clear to us what our responsibility is.

Currently, at the District level we have parents coming to us for help and we are not sure on how to assist them. The Governors are there to assist them, but because the Open Members are closer, they come to us for assistance. Therefore, we must have answers, we need to know how we can help students who are attending tertiary institutions who wish to use this HELP program. In doing this we can assist them at our levels instead of having to refer them elsewhere.

We have come up with this program, but we need clarification on what we will be doing at our respective levels, and funding from the Government is divided equally amongst the respective levels.

(2) Secondly, what sort of jobs have we created for these students and where will they be sent to.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to look at two areas the Private and the Service Oriented Sector. For instance, now we need teachers and health workers. We don't have a lot of doctors or teachers in this country. Therefore, the Department of Higher Education needs to concentrate on these two-service oriented sector because our country needs more teachers and doctors. Fully subsidize their school fees so they can be trained and go back to their provinces or districts and work.

For example, in my district I have fully subsidized fees for students in my districts who are at teachers' colleges and institutions because I need more teachers in my district. But it's not good to deal with it at a district level. We need to take a national approach where the National Department of Education with the support of the teachers' colleges. The National Department of Education must be directly responsible because they know the enrolment projection for all the schools in each province and district. So, teachers can be trained based on the projections for enrolment. I think this is an issue where we have not introduced in our country.

Similarly, to health workers, as we speak a lot of districts have district hospitals now. Do you have enough doctors? You have built hospitals but no doctors. Therefore, this type of workers, we must give them 100 per cent subsidies so they can finish their training and go back to the rural hospitals and health centers and work because the Government has paid in full. We need to train our students based on what sort of service-oriented jobs we need in our country.

The Governor for Enga has already mentioned that we need more teachers, health workers, police men and women in our country. These types of workers we need to subsidize their school fees so that they can be trained and go back to their provinces and work.

29/07

Those that are committed in their studies must be given full 100% scholarship or support so that they will be well trained and must be posted to health centres to be part of those medical health organisations this is government's responsibility. We government will not fund everybody but in service delivery sites in government body, we must train the teachers, health workers, police man and woman and send them to our districts and rural areas. I think we have to look into this whether it's a great idea or it's not clear where we need to train the workforce that we require to build the station. We suppose to train this kind of work force from the start as soon as they finish from grade 10 or 12 and support them in their career path. If it means the health department to take care of all training of health workers, then so be it because it knows the requirements of the entire country.

If we let the higher education and its divisional heads, they will only attend to teachers only. The department of health should be already projecting and knowing exactly how many health workers require for each of the province and then train them based on that and we fully fund their education and training. They are our front-line public servant; they will always be there now we don't have them. We have all the facilities but we are closed because we don't have workers.

Mr Speaker these are the 2 things and I know it's time but firstly;

1. Share the workloads equally in all levels of government in case the same funding's will be repeated by the districts and the national government. Otherwise we are all funding the same group of students because of politics. Politics should not come in here because we have to have a clear line of demarcation of where we should be funding or supporting our student for this country.

2. We have to train our police man and woman, health workers and teachers and must be fully funded so that they will do their duties to save our people and our country. Thank you.

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

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

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION – GOVERNMENT’S TUITION  
FEE SUBSIDY POLICY – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

**Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY** (Wosera-Gauí – Minister for Education) – Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to inform Parliament on the Marape-Steven's Government policy on Government Tuition Fee Subsidy that replaces the last government's policy called the Tuition Fee Free (TFF) policy.

Mr Deputy Speaker and Hon. Members, as stated by the Treasurer in his 2020 Budget speech our economy is not in a better shape as we wish. And for us in the education sector we had to relooked at the reality and make pragmatic policies that are grounded in the traditional principles of self-reliance and resilience and also sustainable to get every child to school and receive quality education. We cannot not build a society dependent on government handouts. We must break that syndrome and make the interventions, not for political convenience but for a sustainable future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Government's annual budget to the Department of Education is over K3 billion every year for teacher's salaries and entitlements, provincial education functional grants, national functions such as curriculum and standards and other operations. Tuition Fee is basically the operational and functional costs of a school that is paid by the government or parents.

**30/07**

Tuition Fee is basically the operational and functional costs of a school that is paid by the government or parents. The Marape-Steven's Government will subsidize the tuition fee for all students attending Elementary prep to grade 12, FODE, TVET, Vocational Schools, and Special Education Institutions. Starting from this year 2020, we have rebranded and rename it to the Government Tuition Fee Subsidy (GTFS).

The government had carefully reviewed the policy to make education a shared responsibility between Provincial and District Governments, parents, guardians, Churches, NGOs and other interested parties to contribute 36.6 per cent while the National Government pays 63.4 per cent.

It is our intention to ensure that quality education is provided to all students irrespective of background through an affordable and sustainable policy. Our stand for an education

system must be underpinned by a shared responsibility charter whereby everybody in the business of education has a responsibility, obligation and are accountable. We as a government is convinced that education is powerful tool and can transform and sustain the economy and our wellbeing.

The Marape-Steven Government is committed to ensuring every student receives quality education under a standard based education, a 1-6-6 school structure, a robust standards assurance system, and school operations have sustained funding from both the government and parents.

It is true that in the last 7 years from 2013 up to 2019 the government has invested more than K4 billion and it was somewhat a relief for parents and guardians, but the policy has also developed a dependency syndrome amongst parents and guardians, making them complacent and relying too much on government handouts. We want to disengage and cut out this dependency syndrome that is systematically injected into our Papua New Guinea culture. The shift in the school financing policy of the Marape-Steven Government is deliberate to reset and correct the mindset to get parents and communities back to their land, work their land and contribute meaningfully towards reviving the economy and take back PNG. The handout culture and a dependency syndrome stops with the Marape-Steven Government.

Similarly, parents and guardians will take ownership of schools in their areas and feel accountable and responsible to the daily operations. The government on the other hand will concentrate on investing into new schools and infrastructure of existing schools to improve quality.

### **3. Gtfs Budget Allocation and Payments**

Mr Acting Speaker the total budget allocated of the Government Tuition Fee Subsidy Policy is K486, 351,600 compared to K616.187, 000 in 2019. This is only a cut of 21 per cent which is K129, 835,400. The GTFS has two components, a School Operational and Functional Grant of K388,351,600 which is 80 per cent and a commodity component of which is 80% and a commodity component of K98 000 000 which is 20% for the total allocation.

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School fees for all levels of school is determined and set out by the National Education Board. As for 2020, all fees set by National Education Board for all levels of school have been circulated to all Provincial Education Authority and principles of all schools. This

message was jointly published widely in the media by the Prime Minister and I as the Minister responsible.

The fee structure for each student by schools' sector is in Table 1 of this statement as information for all Honourable Members of Parliament. Also in Table 2 is the overall NEB Approved Maximum Limit and the Maximum Limit PEB or Provincial Education Board can approve for Project Fees?

So Table 1 is, I think itself explanatory. I'll let you go through that. I'll just give you an example, like in elementary schools NEB Limit is K110. Government contribution of 63.4% is K69.66, and Parents' Component of 36.6% is K40.34.

Project fees, Mr Acting Speaker for 2020, schools will be allowed to collect Project Fees but must follow very strict approval guidelines. The Provincial Education Board is the only authority to approve project fees for schools, after it has receive a SLIP Plan. A SLIP is basically School Learning Improvement Plan. The Project Plan, Scope and Budget and a P&C Association Agreement where Project Fees are to be collected. It must be less than 20% of the Maximum Fee Limit per student as shown in Table 2.

I'll just go through that by sector and the amount that PEB can or the schools can charge per student. Elementary for any Project Fees must be K20. Primary School, I'm looking at the third column if you look at the figures. Primary School K60. Secondary School K220. Vocational School K200. FODE K20 per subject. And for Special Education K40. Church Agency fees similarly in 2020, Church Agency fees are to be paid by each student attending Church Agency School per the *Education Act 1983*. The Provincial Education Board will set and approve the fees but it must not be above the Maximum Limits as set below. For prep and elementary K5, primary K7, high schools, secondary schools and vocational schools K10.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in respect of timing for the payments of fees, I have through my Ministry Policy Statement No.1/2020 and supported by my Secretary's Circular Instruction No.1/2020, we have made it clear to all schools that the Government will pay its component of fees in terms 1, 2 and 3. And the parents are given until end of term 3 to complete their fees. DDAs and Provincial Support can be paid any time during the year, but preferably by end of term 3.

May I also advise Parliament that we have already on 27 January 2020 paid K95million into school accounts (funds we held back in 2019) and Treasury has approved a warrant of K50million last week and this will be processed and disbursed to school very soon.

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#### **4. The 2020 Budget Support for Quality Interventions**

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst there is a cut in the 2020 tuition fee support to schools, the government has proven its commitment to quality education.

In the 2020 budget, we have increased the budget of school inspection systems by K10 million from K1 million, increased the curriculum budget to over K30 million and examinations and assessment receive K18 million. We will ensure a world class standard based curriculum is in place by 2020, starting with one textbook per student policy with Grade 3 to 6 English, Mathematics and Science textbooks and give emphasis on quality assurance by making our inspectors more mobile and productive, and roll out early childhood education and schools of excellence policies. We are also going to give an opportunity for all children to have FODE as an alternative pathway to complete their education. We will soon be launching this policy strategic plan in parliament and I will invite all of you to attend.

#### **5. Education is a Right**

Mr. Speaker, it is this government policy to reiterate and maintains that EDUCATION IS A RIGHT for its citizens.

Every Child has the right to education therefore No school head or governing board is to refuse any child from enrolling in school or attending classes for non-payment of any form of fees. Schools are encouraged to make special arrangements between the parents and the schools to pay required fees over a period during the school year.

I repeat Mr. Deputy Speaker, no school is to turn away any student due to Non Payment of any kind of fees.

#### **6. Partnership with Provincial Governments and District Development Authorities**

On partnership with provinces, five (5) provinces, namely; Milne Bay, Enga Morobe, East New Britain and New Ireland, have signed MOA's with the National Government to manage national government school fee grants/subsidies. We will honor our commitment and enhance further collaboration and partnership.

Provincial Governments and District Development Authorities are the immediate authority responsible for the education of students in the general education sector within their respective jurisdiction. In the spirit of partnership, we urge every provincial government and district development authorities to help their schools, and especially parents who may struggle to pay their 36.6% component of school fees.



At this juncture, I commend a number of provinces and districts like Hela Province, Rigo District, Madang Open and Vanimo Green, and others that have indicated to support struggling parents with their component of the tuition fees.

## **7. Conclusion**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in conclusion. I reiterate that the Marape-Steven Government Tuition Free Subsidy policy re-establishes collaboration and partnership in the education of our children. The partnership will enhance quality education to all our children in PNG.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Governors and Members of Parliament who have made provisions in their respective budgets to assist parents with 36.6 per cent of parental component apart from their normal tertiary student component. I also thank all parents and stakeholders in their continuous partnership in sharing the responsibility in education for our children.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

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**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** (Esa'ala – Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Justice & Attorney-General) – Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to join in the discussion on very important sector of our country. I used the opportunity, Mr Deputy Speaker, to commend, first of all the Minister for Higher Education, Education Department and the officials of our both department for delivering the Ministerial Statements, has they done this morning on a very important policy, decision that this Government has taken.

I also wish to thank the Honorable leaders who have contributed in this debate and most of what have been said is constructive and meaningful, and I know that the Minister are taking notes of the comments expressed and the suggestions made.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want in-commending the information that that has been put before the Honorable Haus. I want to edge hourly. I asked the leader of the court to take note of the paper and for leave to make the statement. Thank you.

Mr Deputy Speaker, leaders are edge to take time to read this very important statement and especially the information that is contained and to be able to raise any issues of concerned and to discuss them with the Ministers concerned, especially so that we can disseminate, we can be part of the information dissemination process.

In order that we inform our parents and citizens, even students on the working and the policy content and how it will affect our people. I also wish to informed, Mr Deputy Speaker, the House, now that the statements are in the public domain. It is also important that we take

these statements to our districts, even to the districts administrations, even the provinces where often times decisions are made, perhaps ignorance often times, decision makers are not informed sufficiently on the policies that we make.

This been very important changes in the policy position on especially the tuition fee subsidy and also the help policy. Mr Deputy Speaker, in both statements, an important point to be highlighted is the policy frame work and the operating procedures that have been approved by the NEC under which the help program and the Government tuition fee are still can be delivered to our people.

I emphasis the need for us to fully appreciate this policy frame work and the operating the procedures. This is important because programs in the education space must be guided to be equitable, fair and transparent so that those who have the need in our society can benefit.

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This why the policy driven is program is important and for us leaders to continue to firmly and take step to appreciate is policy position, that the policy structure which both statement have been deliver.

Mr Acting Speaker, can also describe as successful and you can see from the statement.

Mr Acting Speaker, how we try to related to the 2050 vision, the vision that must guide what we do in the government, the vision that aims building society that just educated health and wise, the perhaps in this policy and also capsulated in this current government drive to take back Papua New guinea and to give back to citizens especially the young and to drive move Papua New Guinea forward, we fully appreciate that suits way of destroying any nations or civilisations is by stuffing them all the quality education creating and un- educating and un-powered populations, this is why the Marape Steven government is very concerns align what we do with 2050 vision and our intention to ensure that the statement about empowering Papua new guinea and making sure that Papua New Guinea prospect going into the future deliver.

Mr Acting Speaker, as I conclude to support my statement, I also remember that the national goals are directly principals speeches for human development, national goals and directly principal of our constitution speaks of eternal grow human development as a major pillar on which, we must build our country. This is why when we speaks and I endorse what was said earlier alone about the government's motivation to shift the policy from free education to shared responsivity and self-reliance.

We are talking about the very issues and vision by our constitutional law in the national goals and directly principals.

Today, Mr Acting speaker, from the statement we can that about 26,651 students across our institutions stands today from this policy incentive specifically under health, when we look at the rate at which our population is increasing and the current statistics of our students enrol and continuing in this very small, but important direction this is why it is combatable that the ministers have indicted emphasises on collecting base line data, we want to be the government that is making decisions based on recall evidence on outcomes driven approach data that is necessary for us to review and to improve on this policy, like all the other government policy, observably the ministers who will continue to report to this Honourable House on how the health program in the government tuition program going on undertaking in near future, and this also will lead to the necessary discussion of improving this programs, so there are perhaps fully and they drive of achieving our vision as a Nations.

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For those reasons I commend the two Ministers and all the leaders who have contributed to the debate this morning, I commend these two Papers to the House.

Thank you.

**Mr WILLIAM POWI** (Southern Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, before I move the motion I would like to commend the Minister for Education on this very important policy. I feel that it is important that we must articulate and improve this important policy going forward with the view to get better.

Maybe in the long run we must face out the socialist idea that talks about obtaining everything free. Yes, education is an important right for the people but it is not free and must be a shared responsibility.

These two policies are very important like the Health Policy the Minister for Education must articulate it properly moving forward.

The other important thing is that the Principals of Schools and the Board of Management, in my province at the Provincial Assembly when we made the announcement to support the Education System, I have given them no uncertain terms to the Principals and the Board of Management that you must serve the interest of the Government to help facilitate all students of my province to be educated because they have the right to education.

We need the Education Department to get this message across to the Principals and Board of Management when the National Government, Provincial Government and Districts adhere to this and are promoting Education for our students they must be seen facilitating these.

This is something very important that I am beginning to realise because I have 393 elementary schools, 184 primary schools across my province and 15 high schools but there have been a couple of new high schools that have been established through your department and we have 9 Secondary schools. We must tailor and give priority to these lively skills through TVET Skills that we are talking about.

From 2016 all through to 2019 correlated all my capable, dynamic, energetic people but the system is throwing them back to the villages. So far from 2016 to 2019, my advisor is telling me that there is 9 000 Southern Highlands students have the capability and ability to advance in life but the system is not providing their acceptance so these 9 000 students are being rejected by the system because of the limitations in the school. So, you really need to articulate the way forward about TVET Skills Education where we have an increasing population we need to give them life skills to become better useful citizens of our country.

I think that most of you are being faced with this issue and you will agree with me and we must take on board Life skills training from Grade 12 and onwards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want the education Department to take serious measures on the curriculum, inspections, quality and standards. We have the systems and officials to ensure that the curriculum, inspections, quality and standards are done.

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In the Southern Highlands province, I have taken stock of teachers' training. All teachers from different levels of schools, what training they have taken, what are their expertise and I am seeing that some teachers who are not supposed to teach chemistry are in secondary schools. They not qualified chemistry teachers because of shortage of science and mathematics teachers these teachers are put in to teach these subjects even though they know that they are not qualified.

There is a lot of mismatch that needs to be consulted and we need an articulate way forward for the whole government department. The National Government needs to look at funding following functions either in the LLG, Provincial Governments or the National Government. We need to get these corrected, it must be very clear and articulate. For

example, in the education department, I am telling my people that elementary and primary schools is not the responsibility of the Governor, it is for the Open Member and DDA.

We must articulate this; the governor will be responsible for secondary schools and tertiary institutions in consultation with Waigani. In the health department, same principle should be applied and if I am wrong, I stand to be corrected but I think we need to get the following functions clearly articulated, otherwise there is going to be a lot of overlaps, where we could have districting priorities linking up with provincial priorities and then you will have a disjointed conception of service delivery in the country.

This is my short contribution for today. This idea for project fees is really disturbing the government policy and a lot of people are using the issue of project fees as an hinderance for our children. I don't know about other provinces but for my province, some principles who may not like me are using project fees as a blockage to deny students to register and be educated. The education department has to be clear on this. These are great policies however, there are some grey areas that needs to be sorted out.

Especially the health component, there is some concerns at the universities that a lot of students may have dissatisfaction on this because there was misconception in the beginning. So, let us correct it and deal with as we go. If there are areas that need to be refined, let us do it properly.

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

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

**MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION – RECONVENING OF REGIONAL  
AVIATION MINISTERS MEETING – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

**Mr LEKWA GURE** (Rigo – Minister for Civil Aviation) – Mr Deputy Speaker, on behalf of my Rigo people of the Central Province, I thank you for allowing me to deliver my statement on my proposal for Papua New Guinea to host the Pacific Islands Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting as part of a pathway to raise the profile of aviation safety and

security in the region with leaders, noting the importance that safe and secure air travel brings to all aspects of life in the Regional context.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to advise this honourable House that the Aviation Minsters Meeting will be convened from 26-27 March 2020 at APEC Haus, as per the NEC Decision No:NG164/2019 of December 2019. The last Aviation Ministers meeting was held in July 2016 in Fiji, but this was only a one-off meeting. There is a need for a regular meeting to avoid a loss in visibility of aviation issues and a further inability to pursue collaborative regional initiatives and aviation matters, particularly in the regulatory context are not currently featured in the regional agenda.

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Mr acting speaker, The Smaller Island States (SIS) Regional Strategy 2016-2020 endorsed by Leaders in Pompeii in September 2016 identified Air/Sea Transportation as a priority of shared importance to the sub-grouping; however, the emphasis in the Strategy is on 'fair and equitable air service agreements' and on the proper management of upper airspace for Smaller Island States, not on strengthening regulatory frameworks to ensure safe and secure air travel.

Mr Speaker, at the same time there is an absence in the region on leading and progressing aviation policy work, and around collaboration on broader aviation initiatives, such as infrastructure development and maintenance support. The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat has temporarily assumed the oversight on aviation policy work (i.e. upper airspace management and connectivity) when the South Pacific Community (SPC) ceased all aviation related work in 2017.

Mr Speaker, During the 2017 Transport Ministers Meeting, it was highlighted that decisions on aviation-related issues could not be made due to issues around representation and further recommended that an Aviation Ministers meeting be convened to discuss aviation-specific matters of importance to the region, and report to Leaders accordingly.

Mr Speaker, At the December 2018 meeting of the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) Council meeting which PNG chaired, the Council expressed its concern that at present, aviation has low visibility and tends not to feature in the Pacific Island Leaders' Forum regional priorities. The role of PASO is also often misunderstood and given recent accidents and serious incidents in the Pacific, it has highlighted how important aviation safety and security oversight and PASO's role is.

Mr Speaker, there are also several other key opportunities for collaborative and unified approaches that could potentially benefit the region; however, there is currently no vehicle to engage politically on these issues and gain consensus by Leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Following the unanimous decision of the PASO Council meeting in December 2018 supporting the re-convening of the Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat in partnership with PASO is seeking the support of Leaders to re-establish a regular meeting of Aviation Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, the following issues are currently relevant and serve to justify why an Aviation Ministers Meeting would bring value to strengthening aviation safety and security in the region:

1. Beijing Declaration Commitments: Recognising one of the key discussion points at the recent meeting of Director Generals of Civil Aviation in Fiji (in October 2018), member states are expected to implement commitments made under the Beijing Declaration which was endorsed by the Asia Pacific Ministers for Civil Aviation in Beijing, China in 2018. It is expected that some States will require additional support from PASO to implement the commitments; however, this support is not currently within the remit of PASO.

2. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Pacific Aviation Needs Analysis Study: Having commenced in March 2019, ICAO will work directly with fourteen (14) Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) to outline the aviation safety, air navigation and aviation security challenges that they face, particularly given the unique challenges that exist in the region. The study has concluded by proposing options that could be explored to address these challenges.

3. The study proposed four (4) options:

(i) Establishment of a Regional Cooperative Project to develop safety, air navigation and security oversight capabilities within the region;

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(ii) Strengthening the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) by improving its capacity and governance to perform a greater Regional Safety Oversight Organization.

(iii) Formation of a Regional Safety and Security Oversight Authority; and

(iv) Establishment of an ICAO Sub-Regional Office for the PSIDS.

The result of this Study will need to be achieved through the support and consensus of Forum Leaders and their Aviation Ministers.

4. The need for sound regulatory aviation frameworks: There is focused effort in the region on aviation infrastructure improvement projects in addition to introducing new airlines or new aircraft to increase growth and exploit tourism opportunities. Aviation regulatory frameworks, which themselves are key enablers of economic growth and a critical component of sustainable tourism industries are not accorded the same focus or effort. For passenger numbers, employment opportunities, and Gross Domestic Product to increase, member States require strong regulatory frameworks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while the aviation industry in the Asian Region is growing at an unprecedented rate, the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and reviews by other international bodies indicate that several Contracting States in the region have not yet been able to establish an effective national safety oversight system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, nineteen (19) out of the 36 States in the Asia Pacific regions are in the Pacific Islands region which were audited had an Effective Implementation (EI) of ICAO standards lower than the global average. This seeming contradiction that the APAC region represents both the highest traffic and the highest number of low EI states is a difficult challenge which needed to be addressed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the 'No Country Left Behind' initiative of ICAO has brought about a paradigm shift in their focus from striving for individual State excellence to a scenario where States and industry partners need to cooperate and collaborate to bring about collective improvements in safety and security standards.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this sense of cooperation and collective focus is being established in most regions and is often reinforced in their regular Ministerial level meetings. Unfortunately, the Pacific region has never had a Ministerial level regional meetings to discuss common issues relating to the critical and important aspects of safety and air navigation in order to foster cooperation and collaboration at the highest level of policy making.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the context of the above and other related issues, in the recent 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tuvalu in August, Leaders have agreed to convene a RAMM in 2020 to consider and discuss aviation-specific matters of importance to the region, in particular aviation safety and security, compliance with



International Civil Aviation Organization standards and opportunities for increase connectivity

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the decision of the Forum Leaders is very clear and Papua New Guinea is supporting this decision whereby the regional Civil Aviation Ministers meet, with the intent of making high level firm commitments to civil aviation policy developments in aviation safety, air navigation services, accident investigation and human resource development within the Pacific Region and to implement the safety and air navigation priorities of the region within a fixed time frame.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the Meeting a draft Ministerial Declaration will be discussed and adopted as the Port Moresby Declaration. The Declaration will reflect our common concerns, positions and vision of all Pacific Islands member states in terms of aviation safety, air navigation services, accident investigation and human resources. It is not only a consensus on promoting the development of the aviation industry in the Region, but it will also be a multilateral policy guideline for promoting the development of Pacific civil aviation in the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be of great significance in strengthening the cooperation among the countries in the field of civil aviation, further enhancing the level of aviation safety in the Pacific Region, promoting the healthy, sustained and high-quality development of civil aviation in the region, for the social and economic enhancement of our communities.

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Finally, Mr Speaker, Given the increased performance of Papua New Guinea both at the international and regional level, and the broader role it is playing in the region, and being increasingly called to play, it is prudent that support at the political level is demonstrated for Papua New Guinea to host the meeting as we continue to show regional leadership not only in aviation matters but, also in another forum, as well.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Rainbo Paita**) adjourned.

**MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE – REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE  
DELIVERY PLANS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER.**

**Mr SOROI EOE** (Kikori – Minister for Public Service) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In my capacity as Minister for Public Service, on behalf of my people of Kikori district allow me to express my sincerest thanks to our Nation's 8th Prime Minister, the Honorable James Marape and the Marape-Steven Government for having the confidence in me to head couple of important Portfolios in this Government. As the current Minister for Public Service, I have pledged to devote myself in achieving the New Government's aims and objectives in "Taking Back Papua New Guinea".

I acknowledge the contributions made by the recent past Ministers for Public Service, Honorable Westly Nukundj, and now Minister for Immigration & Border and the Honorable Elias Kapavore, member for Pomio Open Electorate and of course not forgetting contributions by Sir Puka Temu.

Under my leadership, the Ministry is focusing on the strategic direction in the Prime Minister's Inaugural Address to the Parliament whilst maintaining policy continuity with special emphasis and focus on key priorities directives from the Government that will enable effective service delivery. The key priorities for the Ministry are captured in Department of Personnel Management's Corporate Plan, 2018 to 2022 and we have commenced a number of main initiatives to accelerate the achievements of these priorities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my inaugural address today as the Minister for Public Service, I would like to focus on the Strategic Planning Priorities made by the Prime on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to Take Back PNG and Make PNG the Richest Black Christian Nation. With the Ministerial oversight of the conduct and performance of the Ministry's legislated Responsibilities, the Prime Minister has tasked my Ministry to deliver on eight Key Strategic Priorities or Key Result Areas. These are medium to long term strategies that will be undertaken by the Ministry through the Department of Personnel Management as follows:

(1) Create smarter and leaner organization structures removing duplication and inefficiency.

I am pleased to report that progress has been made in the removal of organizational inefficiencies in some of our Government Agencies by right sizing, amalgamating and abolishing some agencies that will eventually result in cost savings.

The reform initiatives directed by Government and now being implemented by Department of Personnel Management are as follows:

(a) The Department of Public Enterprises was formally abolished in 2018, and its functions are being absorbed into Kumul Consolidated Holdings,

(b) The Border Development Authority Act was successfully repealed and the Authority abolished. The affected staff are currently being paid out, and their Assets being audited by the Department of Finance.

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(c) The Office of the Coastal Fisheries Development Agency has been abolished, and the functions absorbed into the National Fisheries Authority;

(c) The Office of Urbanization has been abolished and the functions absorbed into the Department of Lands & Physical Planning;

(d) The Office of Tourism, Arts and Culture has been abolished and the Tourism functions absorbed into the National Tourism Authority;

a. As part of this, Arts & Culture functions have been absorbed back into the National Cultural Commission; and,

(e) The Cocoa & Coconut Institutes have been re-organized and the research functions have been amalgamated.

It was originally estimated that savings of more than K40 million would be realized over three years through the reforms.

The Organizational Audit is carried out to determine and identify;

a) Duplication and overlaps in functions and that these are removed from the existing structure.

b) Flat organization structures with minimum levels of management to promote true accountability and minimum cost are in place in all organization and progressive reports provided in compliance with the Special General Orders for NEC information.

c) The General Order Standards position category and grading will be implemented by DPM/Department of Finance across all National and Provincial Agencies through Ascender Payroll by the end of 2020.

d) The Organization, Staffing, Personnel Emoluments Audit Committee (OSPEAC) is operationalized by regulations to provide legislative backing to Audit and Reporting functions. This is again work in progress.

e) HR Business Process conducted through the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG) at all levels across the National and Provincial Governments will be finally realized upon the signing of the MOU between PILAG and Department of Personnel Management.

## **2. Review of Legislations and General Orders**

The Ministry and the Department has already commenced the review of relevant Legislations and the Public Service General Orders to ensure there is alignment and legal compliance. This review will also take into account recent directions by the Government such as ensuring that all public servants from agency head to lowest level officer is on the performance management system with specific Key Result Areas. Some of these Legislations to be amended are:

(1) Regulations to cover relevant state agencies by the *Salaries and Conditions Monitoring Committee Act*.

(2) Relevant regulations including *District Development Authority Act*

(3) *Public Employment (Non-Citizen) Act 1978*

(4) General Orders

This is to empower Provincial Governments and Administrations to better manage their public servants within the one National Public Service.

The new *Public Service (Management) Act 2019* which was recently passed and the *Regulatory Statutory Authorities (RSA) Act*, and updated regulations and General Orders are in place and operational by Circular Instructions 15/2019 and Special General Orders 11 approved by the NEC.

Department of Personnel Management is now geared towards service delivery at district levels by restructuring in each team that will concentrate on regional set ups. The immediate assignment for the Ministry and the Department for 2020 is to implement the Special General Order 11 on cost saving measures in the Public Service.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that, the teams for the four regions are set and ready implement the Special Order 11 upon release of allocated funds by the respective Departments.

3. Review of the *Public Services (Management) Act* to empower Provinces to better manage Provincial Government Personnel's. The aim is to promote the concept of one National Public Service through:

a) Major Review *Public Service Management Act* to include establishment of Regional Offices.

b) Appointment to Human Resource Manager positions in Provincial Administrations and National Departments to be the responsibility of Secretary for Department of Personnel Management.

c) Conduct Organization Capacity Needs Analysis and Capacity Diagnostic review of all Provincial Administration including Provincial Pay structure review to provide incentive.

d) Complete all Health Positions to be removed from the Provincial Administration Structures and transferred to Provincial Health Authority structures as per *PHA Act*.

e) Policy on Housing as a condition of employment at district level only with the aim to build District Institutional Houses as part of creating enabling environment by the State is finalized for NECs approval.

f) There's also partnership (PPP) arrangement with International Finance Corporation under the World Bank program to assist to develop home ownership scheme for public servants, and my Department is progressing this matter in close consultation with other government agencies.

4. Achieving of quality work force planning. My Ministry through DPM would do the following;

a) Initiate NEC Policy Directives for DPM to send out Circular Instructions to all Agencies covered by Public Service General Orders to produce workforce plans in standards format by the end of year 2019.

b) Initiate NEC Policy Directives for establishment of the National Workforce Planning Committee comprising of DNPM, DPM, DHERST, DOE, and Sector Agency representatives to formulate overarching work plan.

c) Ensuring that National and Provincial Government line agencies have in place 5 – year work force plan in accordance with General Orders and overarching MTD3 covering the following areas;

d) Identifying skill gaps and shortages in prescribed professional and technical occupations to report to National Workforce Planning Committee and Provincial Government National Workforce Planning Committee.

e) Career path profiles of serving senior officers and succession plans according to retirement and promotional projections;

f) Educational and qualification needs in specific technical and professional staff categories;

g) NEC Policy Directives in place to require quarterly training reports are submitted to Department of Personnel Management and then to Ministerial Sectorial Committees demonstrating compliance and achievements by the year ending.

#### **5. Complete comprehensive Manpower and Payroll Audit**

Manpower Audit would identify and confirm with the concerned agencies the manpower figures from their establishment registers against the Government of PNG Integrated HR and Payroll System in the following areas.

- a) Officers who are unattached and are not held against any existing positions,
- b) Officers who are redundant as a result of misplacement within the agency or as a result of a restructure and their services are no longer required,
- c) Officers who have reached compulsory retirement age and retirement on medical grounds,
- d) Positions that are funded but are still vacant.

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- e). positions created to provide certain approved assignments, eg. Consultants,
- f) Unattached officers' list - nature of un-attachment,
- g) short/long term suspensions list - from the payroll (disciplinary suspensions/long term studies/furlough leave, and
- h) list of all Short-Term Contract Officers,
- i) Register of officers on retirement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to confirm the number of public servants employed and on the Government Payroll. The Department of Personnel Management is working closely with NID to have all public servants registered by June 2020. This information will be eventually link to the Government Payroll so that ghost names will be eliminated from the payroll.

#### **6. Promote practical and targeted training for Public Servants**

Mr Deputy Speaker, under this category my Ministry and the Department of Personnel Management should do the following;

a) Promote the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG) as the premier public Sector Training Organization for practical and targeted In-Country programs, including provision of (Aid Funded) technical Advisors for training course development.

b) Promote rapid development of the PILAG Regional Training Centre's through NEC approved programs funded in partnership with Aid Donors and Provincial Governments

c) Promote mandatory allocations from PSIP and DSIP funds dedicated to NEC approved targeted training programs delivered by the PILAG at Provincial and District Levels commencing in the 2020 budget. PILAG to facilitate the Policy Submission

#### **7. Progressive Government Personnel Emoluments Costs**

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is a very important area that Public Servants have been accused of, so these are information that need to be taken note of.

My Ministry, through the Department of Personnel Management have continued to maintain and control Personnel Emoluments on a fortnightly basis. For the interest of this House and the citizens who are listening, let me cover the current staffing of the government agency in the Government. So as of Pay Period 26 of last year (2019) are as follows:

Total Number of Public Servants that are in different sectors,

- a). Teaching Services – carries 64 221 staff which is about 52.2 per cent,
- b). National Government Departments – has 11 325 staff which is about 9.2 per cent,
- c). THS and Hospitals – has 11 768 staff which is about 9.5 per cent,
- d). Provincial Administration – carries 8 532 staff which is about 7 per cent,
- e). Disciplinary Forces – carries 12 986 staff which is about 10 per cent,
- f). Law and Justice Sector – carries about 1 899 staff which is about 1.5 per cent,
- g). IRC, Customs and Revenue – has 1 158 staff which is about 1 per cent,
- h). Village Court Officials – has a total of 10 437 staff which is about 8.5 per cent,
- i). Land Mediation Officers – carries 1 222 staff which is about 1 per cent.

**43/07**

The grand total makes up to 122,946. This is what we have but there are other staff that are not included in here, which we can produce at a later presentation. The final point that I want to talk about is the retirement strategy.

A summary of age distribution of public servants, all public employees and government payroll excluding teachers with ages between 60 to 65 is shown in the following table at pay No.17 of July 2018, which is displayed below in this document. You have a total of 872 in

the 60-year age group and 61-year age group with 741, 62-year-old, there are 507, we have 63 years 508, 64 years we have 403, 65 and above years we have 2,150.

So, in total the normal retirement bracket is about 5216 compulsories out of a total of 57 officers who are in that category. These figures do not include teachers; essentially because the Department of Education have not maintained accurate date of birth records on the payroll.

Of the 64,221 teachers, over 20,000 have either no dates or default dates of birth. It is estimated that 7000 teachers will be in compulsory retirement age bracket of between 60-65 years.

For State Services, there are total of 5,216 officers which is 4.3 per cent reaching compulsory retirement age of 60 from the total of 122,162 staff on strength. The average cost of service related benefits (Money in Lieu of Leave (MILO), Money in Lieu of Furlough (MILOF), Money in Lieu of Notice (MILON) and Repatriation) at retirement of staff in the age bracket 60 to 65 plus is of the order of K50,000 per head. What is due to these retirees by Nambawan Super Limited (NSL), is in the order of K150,000 per head.

As part of the cost control measures, my Ministry has embarked on the whole of Government Retirement. A retirement Strategy has been put in place and implemented as follows:

a) Those retirees over 65 plus years (2,150) costing K430 million should be retired in 2020. I truly commend and appreciate this Government for including this amount in the 2020 budget for the retirees to be removed from the payroll.

b) Those retirees over 62 to 64 (1,468) costing K74 million should be retired in 2021.

c). Those retirees over 60 to 61 years (1,297) costing K242 million should be retired in 2022.

d) Those retirees between 60 and 61 years must conduct understudies training to take on the responsibilities (2 years of understudy).

**44/07**

Will be issued to all agency heads by my Department to inform them to budget for retirees in their Budget Submissions for year 2021 onwards.

Mr Speaker, the eight initiatives outlined in this submission are linked to the prime Minister's commitment, on behalf of our new government, to continue with the reforms commenced by the former Government. The greatest challenges ahead for the Public Service



and other State Services is to achieve a balanced Personnel Emoluments Budget over the next few years.

As part of this, the steps outline in this paper must be rigorously and diligently applied. In doing so, we will progressively overcome the challenges we face.

I am confident that by working together, we will succeed in delivering on the Prime Minister's commitment to this Parliament to "Take Back Papua New Guinea" in the succeeding years of his tenure. But central to this success, are the performance based political and bureaucratic partnerships that we are creating for the betterment of our country.

Mr Speaker, during my term in in this Ministerial office, I will also be fulfilling the objectives of former Ministers Kapavore & Nukundj, pursuant to Vision 2050 objectives.

Particularly as this relates to Pillar Number one, on the "Development of Human Capital." This is to establish a National Policy on Human Resource Management, and the advancement of our people, through the development of the PS Human Resource Development Strategic Plan for 2020-2040 as stated earlier. I will submit this important policy to Cabinet for approval and launch it with in the first quarter of this year.

I am pleased to announce that work is in progress for my Ministry's KRA 1 and 5. At the same time, the Department of Personnel Management has started audit into Government Departments, Provincial Administrations and Statutory Organisations to confirm the number of public servants employed and on the payroll. Audit has commenced late beginning with Department of Works, Hela Provincial Administration, Western Highlands Health Authority and the National Agriculture & Quarantine Authority. Through the reorganised team set up of the Department of personnel Management, audit will be the main focus as part of implementation for Special General Order No. 11 of 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Rainbo Paita**) adjourned.

### **MOTION BY LEAVE**

**Mr RAINBO PAITA** – (Finschaffen- Minister for Finance and Rural Development) –  
I ask leave of the Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

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

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent orders of the day.

2,3,8,9,21,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,32,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,50,51,52,53,54,55,59,60,61,62,66,68,69,70,71,72,74,79,82,83,87,89,92,93,94,116,117,118,119,122,123,125,126,129,132,144,145,146,158 and 160 being called on forthwith.

**45/07**

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2016 –  
PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 27 September 2017 (see page ...)

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

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper -- agreed to.

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT –  
GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REFORMS –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 28 September 2017 (see page ...)

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

Motion -- That the Parliament take note of the paper – agreed to.

**DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT – ALOTAU ACCORD II  
RESOLUTIONS BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH POLITICAL AND  
BUREAUCRATIC PARTNERSHIPS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 14 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**NATIONAL FOREST AUTHORITY – STATE OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY IN  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 23 November 2017 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE – NEW WAY OF DOING  
BUSINESS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 30 November 2017 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY – CREDIT SUISSE BANK LOAN  
AGREEMENT – PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 December 2017 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE – ANNUAL REPORT, 2016 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 7 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – HEALTH SECTOR ANNUAL MANAGEMENT  
REPORT, 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 7 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE – FOREIGN POLICY  
OUTLINES AND ACHIEVEMENTS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 7 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**46/07**

**SUPREME COURT AND NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE –  
JUDGES ANNUAL REPORT, 2016 – PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 8 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY – FINAL BUDGET OUTCOME REPORT, 2017 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 13 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT, 2014 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 14 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS – STATUS OF THE  
KADOWAR ISLAND VOLCANO DISASTER – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 14 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE – PROGRESSIVE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT – MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 15 February 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK LIMITED – ANNUAL REPORTS,  
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 AND 2016 – PAPERS AND STATEMENT –  
PAPERS NOTED**

Debate resumed from 4 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND  
ENERGY – INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY  
SECTOR MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 4 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGION – ANNUAL  
MANAGEMENT REPORTS, 2015, 2016 AND 2017 – PAPERS AND STATEMENT –  
PAPERS NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**47/07**

**CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT, 2015 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND COMPETITION COMMISSION. ANNUAL  
REPORT, 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

Motion -- That the Parliament take note of the paper -- agreed to.

**NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FISCAL COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2015  
AND 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 11 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper -- agreed to.

**ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2015 – PAPER  
AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 11 April 2018 (see page ...)

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

Motion -- That the Parliament take note of the paper -- agreed to.



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE DEPARTMENT AND THE TRANSPORT SECTOR INTO THE FUTURE –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 25 July 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA –  
ANNUAL REPORT, 2014 – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 22 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA –  
ANNUAL REPORT, 2015 – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 22 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA AIR SERVICES LIMITED – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
REPORT, 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 23 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF MINING – AN ACCOUNT OF THE MINING SECTOR IN  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 24 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**NATIONAL LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICES – TEN-YEAR  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2025 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 31 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
DEFENCE — REPORT ON THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP ON  
IMPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF  
ACTION ADDRESSING THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT  
WEAPONS AND PROMOTING GREATER AND MORE EFFECTIVE  
PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS) IN  
PARLIAMENTARY DEFENCE, SECURITY AND INTERIOR COMMITTEES,  
APIA, SAMOA FROM 26-27 APRIL 2018 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 31 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEALTH SECTOR PERFORMANCE UPDATE –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 1 June 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2017 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 17 July 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY – ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2017 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 17 July 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – ANNUAL  
MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 18 July 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**TREATY DOCUMENT – DECLARATION OF ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 26 July 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – STATUS OF THE  
NATIONAL NARCOTICS BUREAU – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 28 August 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**49/07**

**PREPARATION OF APEC FORUM, 2018 – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 29 August 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – STATUS OF THE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC CURATOR AND OFFICIAL TRUSTEE –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 29 August 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY – MID-YEAR ECONOMIC FISCAL OUTLOOK,  
2018 AND BUDGET STRATEGY, 2019 – PAPER AND  
STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 30 August 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – STATUS OF THE  
MAGISTERIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONAL TRANSFORMATION  
PROGRAM – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY – MAJOR IMPACT PROJECTS  
OF THE MINISTRY IN 2018 – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 5 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORTS, 2015 AND 2016 –  
PAPERS AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 6 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – PAROLE BOARD –  
ANNUAL REPORTS, 2015 AND 2016 – PAPERS AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 11 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE – IMPLEMENTING AND ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN FULFILLING THE ALOTAU ACCORD II RESOLUTIONS – MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 11 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – ANNUAL REPORTS, 2015, 2016 AND 2017 –  
PAPERS AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 12 September 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**50/07**

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PERFORMANCE AUDIT  
REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOG EXPORT  
DEVELOPMENT LEVY – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 6 November 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK — STATUS REPORT AND  
FUTURE PLANS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA -  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 7 November 2018 (see page ...)

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

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



**DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT, 2017 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 8 November 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION – RESULTS OF THE 2018, INTERNATIONAL  
CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO) COORDINATED VALIDATION  
MISSION – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 8 November 2018 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL – ANNUAL  
MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2017 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 23 January 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE – 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE AFRICAN-CARRIBEAN AND PACIFIC (ACP) AND THE INTER-SESSIONAL  
MEETINGS OF THE ACP-EUROPEAN UNION (EU) JOINT PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 24 January 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING AND MONITORING MEDIUM TERM  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN III, 2018-2022 – VOLUME ONE, DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND VOLUME TWO,  
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND INVESTMENT PLAN –  
PAPERS AND STATEMENT – PAPERS NOTED**

Debate resumed from 29 January 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING AND MONITORING – PAPUA NEW  
GUINEA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY, 2018-2022 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 29 January 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

51/07

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY – UPDATE ON THE RECENT ECONOMIC  
AND FISCAL DEVELOPMENT – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 31 January 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**STATUS ON BOUGAINVILLE IN REGARD TO THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE  
AGREEMENT THREE PILLARS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 1 February 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**SUPREME COURT AND NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE –  
JUDGES ANNUAL REPORT, 2017 – PAPER –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 25 June 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 –  
PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 25 June 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – REPORT ON THE  
PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING ON MANAGING LAND GEOGRAPHIC  
INFORMATION SYSTEM (LAGIS) UPGRADE FOR THE FISCAL YEARS,  
2008 TO 2016 – PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 26 June 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT, 2017 PAPER AND  
STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 2 July 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 –  
PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 27 August 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT –  
THE POLICY ON INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – WOKBUNG  
WANTAIM/GAUKARA. HEBOU, 2019-2028 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 28 August 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**NATIONAL AIRPORTS CORPORATION LIMITED – ANNUAL REPORT, 2017  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 AND  
2016 – PAPERS AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 29 August 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

52/07

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – OUTBREAK AND CONTAINMENT  
OF POLIO VIRUS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA –  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 15 October 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**SUPREME COURT AND NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE – JUDGES ANNUAL  
REPORT, 2018 – PAPER – PAPER NOTED**

Debate resumed from 26 November 2019 (see page ...)

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

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

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**Mr RAINBO PAITA** (Finschaffen – Minister for Finance and Rural Development) –  
Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank honourable Members who have sat throughout this session today to disburse some of the outstanding Government Business that have been on the Notice Paper for quite some time. It is our primary responsibility to be in Parliament to pass legislations, present Ministerial statements and debate on important issues so I want to again thank all the Members who have sat throughout this session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.15 p.m.