

**SIXTH DAY**

**Thursday 3 September 2020**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

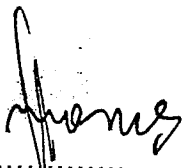
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Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making the corrections.

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Corrections should relate only to inaccuracies. New matter may not be introduced.



.....  
Mr Harry Momos

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

## SIXTH DAY

Thursday 3 September 2020

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Koni Iguan**) 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 took the Chair at 11.06 a.m., and invited the Member for Nawae, **Honourable Kennedy Wenge**, to say Prayers:

‘Papa God long heaven nem bilong yumi istap holi. Mipela i tok tenk yu long laif yu givim mipela long dispela monin.

Mama ino karim mipela yet, Jeremiah i tok yu makim mipela pinis na dispela monin, mipela kam long hiablong toktok long helpim dispela nation; Papua New Guinea.

Mi kisim dispela taim na beten long Speaker long steerim tok long dispela moning na tu Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Opposition Leader na Ministers. Blessim mipela long dispela monin.

Kaikai bilong de, em kaikai bilong tingting nau yu laik givim mipela so, mipela tingting na stretim dispela kantri . Na yu blessim mipela long dispela monin long toktok bilong dispela kantri.

Long nem bilong Jisas pikinini bilong yu na bikpela bilong mipela. mi beten. Amen’

## QUESTIONS

### **Popondetta General Hospital – Address Issues**

**Mr RICHARD MASERE** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Before I ask my series of questions, on behalf of my people of Ijivitari, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and Minister for Petroleum and Energy for a milestone achievement.

The Kumul Holdings Limited has been given the SML to progress the Porgera mine, therefore, I congratulate the Mining Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Health, and I ask the Minister for Public Service to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me give a quick summary of the current situation on the ground so that the Minister can respond appropriately.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Northern Provincial Health Authority was launched by the former Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS, Honourable Sir Puka Temu, on 14 December, 2018. The launch signaled a new era for the health system in the province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, contrary to that belief there has been constant disappointment since the establishment of the Northern Provincial Health Authority. I have received reports that the Popondetta General Hospital is currently under-resourced, underfunded, understaffed and lack the capacity of a category 4 public hospital.

Mr Deputy Speaker, even the appointment of officers to senior position within the hospital are done without following the General Standing Orders, *Public Policy Management Act*, and without consulting the Northern Health Provincial Health Authority Board of Directors. This could explain the drop-in patient-care and health services in the province. Even one or two of these appointees are non-public servants - more like jobs for their cronies.

**02/06**

Mr Deputy Speaker, due to lack of leadership at the hospital, some officers turn up to work around 11 a.m., and sneak off at 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. after three or four hours of work. Absenteeism is also very high and those few committed and faithful staff are overworked and experience burnouts. A lot of good staff have left due to inhouse politics there.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the hospital is functioning without the basic essentials. There is lack of patient-care which has led to a very high number of preventable deaths mostly pregnancy-related deaths.

The morgue is not working and in a deplorable condition. Some decayed bodies have remained for almost three months and it is a health hazard.

No incinerator, no proper health facilities and equipment in place to screen and diagnose patients, or even a place to screen or diagnose Covid-19 patients. No oxygen in wards, no soap or bleach to wash the blood stains in the wards, no food for patients at most times, and there are no stationaries and many more other issues. These issues continue to rise in the rural health facilities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my people want answers and results as soon as possible.

My questions to the minister are as follows:

- (1) When will a permanent appointment of the Chief Executive Officer be done?
- (2) Can an independent investigation and audit be conducted on the finances of the hospital?
- (3) When will the National Department of Health with the support of the Department of Personnel Management intervene to restore corporate and clinical stability back at the Popondetta General Hospital?
- (4) We have qualified doctors currently not being engaged by the Northern Provincial Health Authority and should be considered for leadership position whilst the board institutes the formal processes to appoint a CEO. Can the minister look into this?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Ijivitari for his series of questions.

I am aware of the problems at the Northern PHA. I received the letters from the board and I have facilitated the temporary replacement of a CEO.

With the help of the Governor of Northern Province we have put a team to do an audit and to mitigate to make sure that the health services are back on track.

As you know in the new reforms, the PHAs come under the provincial governments so we really need the help of the provincial government to liaise with us so that is what we have been doing.

We've held three meetings already and we are mitigating at the moment so we should have it cleared within the next week or so.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

### **Jomard Passage Plan**

**Mr ISI HENRY LEONARD** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I stand to raise series of questions to the Minister for Transport.

Before I ask my questions, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Marape-Steven government through the NEC for recognising the Jomard Passage being declared as the compulsory pilotage area.

Moreover, I'd like to thank the government for the endorsement of the National Oceans Policy. This policy, I believe will, also provide the leverage through which we can

realise the potential of the passage economically or financially and at the same time protect the vulnerable environment at the Jomard Passage.

03/06

(1) Can the Minister clarify to the people of Samarai-Murua, especially the people of Louisiade Archipelago the reefs and area where the passage is located?

(2) Can he inform us on the recent development in regards to the development of the Jomard Passage program?

(3) Is there any plan put in place for this passage which we can commercialise to realise its full potential to gain this necessary income? Not necessarily to support the National Budget but to provide business opportunities for the district and the landowners to participate in.

(4) Since that area is vulnerable to maritime eco-system which exist in this area, is there a plan in place for the protection of this vulnerable maritime eco-system?

**Mr WILLIAM SAMB** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Honourable Member for his important questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, since I became Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, I am fully aware of the issue of Jomard Passage, therefore, I have instructed the officers from the Department of Transport and Infrastructure with the assistance from National Maritime Safety Authority (NSMA) to find a solution for this important passage.

Firstly, I acknowledge the presence of the former Member for Milne Bay Province, Titus Philemon. At that time, he was able to assist our team with the Particular Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) status for this important passage. I am not from the coast so don't ask me further on that.

But that's the area which the vessels when passing through this particular place at sea must take careful consideration not to harm or destroy any marine creatures and the environment.

The Jomard Passage is located in an area where there are important marine lives found and the passage pathway is too shallow and very dangerous for vessels to pass through. That's why I have instructed the officers from my department with the assistance from NSMA to find a solution for it so we can protect that area.

Currently on a daily basis there are more than 30 to 60 vessels going North and down South through this passage. So, it's very important that we must protect this area and also generate revenues out from vessels passing through.

In addition, I thank this Government for approving the submission made to Cabinet to declare Jomard Passage a compulsory pilotage area, where we could allow marine pilots to direct big vessels through the passage and in that way, revenues can be generated to support the National Budget.

In relation to commercialising the passage, currently our team is conducting inter-departmental meetings to progress from the NEC submission

**04/06**

So, I am asking the Member and the Milne Bay Provincial Government and all the stakeholders in the province and in the country to allow our team to address this at this issue. Sea piloting is not like a PMV, that you buy it and it runs and you make changes, no, so let us discuss with those concerned, so we can partner. Our interest is to ensure that our people in that area are well served. That part of the area that I am talking about is very beautiful and when we did the pilotage, our people can benefit in terms of spin-offs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this NEC submission is specific and it wants to allow nationals to participate. At this juncture I want to make it known to the industry that is not for me to decide. The decision is for the government, we have to prepare well and when we are ready, we will ask the government and those interested to come and participate. And mind you I will not entertain telephone calls.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr WILLIAM SAMB** – We are also working in partnership with CEPA to ensure to progress the PSSA status and protect our marine resources. To our Members from Milne Bay and our people of the province. we will try our very best to ensure that these important area s protected and our people benefit equally.

#### **Disability Centre – Budget Allocation**

**Mr BENNY ALLEN** – Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for National Planning and Monitoring. Before I ask my question, I would like to make a point

for you to look into and perhaps get the Clerk of Parliament to address this issue. This relates to the fact that all Members of Parliament are not insured. We do not have any insurance cover. And this has been going on for some years now. I hope you take note of this.

My question to the Minister is relating to unfortunate people in the country. If you see in today's *The National* newspaper page 2; we have a donation made by City Pharmacy Limited to Cheshire Homes. And my question is very important because we have two groups of people in the country. The fortunate and the unfortunate group.

You and I are fortunate and we also have unfortunate people who are living with disabilities in this country. There are thousands of them and so often we do not take them into consideration and we sometimes ignore them. This group of people are citizens of this country. And I just want to refer to something that my district is doing. While I mention my district, I want to also thank you to some organizations' in the country; like the Callan Services, through the Catholic Church, in Mt Hagen.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Please get to the point and ask your question.

**05/06**

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I do understand that. This is very important because you and I have to consider people living with disabilities who are suffering and we continue to turn a blind eye on them so I need to raise this point.

Anyway, I will ask my question as some of you members don't have feelings about people living with disabilities.

**Mr Garry Juffa** – Point of Order! Can you ask the Governor to withdraw his comment? We all care about people living with disabilities, he can't make that conclusion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, your point of order is in order. We are all members of Parliament who feel for people living with disabilities. So, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I said 'some'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Thank you.



*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – I do not know how much many feel for them but I said ‘some’.  
I withdraw my comments.

I have worked with people living with disabilities in my district since 2009 and we have carried out a data survey to identify the different disabilities in the district. We found that there is almost 2 000 people who are living with disabilities so every year we allocated funding. For this year we have given them K200 thousand. We are in the process of purchasing the necessities such as wheelchairs, crutches and other utilities that they need to make their lives easier.

Now, we are looking at improving their lives by establishing a disability centre that can cater for the Highlands and Momase regions. So, I have made land available in my district –

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, I once again remind you to get to your question.

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – I am coming to that.

Mr Minister, I have made a submission to your office in July but to date I have not received any acknowledgement letter. The submission is for you to consider funding this disability centre in Budget 2021.

Is it possible to fund the centre in the Budget 2021?

I would also like the Minister of Community Development take note of this question.

Thank you.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Unggai-Bena for this very important question.

Before I, answer the question, I would also like to acknowledge that all of us members here do have persons living with disabilities in our districts and I am sure that with K10 million DSIP and other funding we are trying our best to address this issue at our level.

But, the Department of National Planning has always supported people living with disabilities through the Department of Community Development in the past. There was very little funding allocated in Budget 2020 but we will work in consultation with the Department

of Community Development to ensure that we allocate more funds for people living with disabilities.

I believe that the specifics of spending and how they engage with the organisation will remain as the responsibility of Department of Community Development. Maybe, that is why my department has not responded to your submission because we have to liaise with the appropriate department which is the Department of Community Development to do that.

**06/06**

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, I support him in his plea for people living with disabilities because many seem to think they are liabilities but we can convert that perception into making them become a good contributor to drive our economic growth by making them become useful and responsible citizens of PNG.

I believe those laws also cover widows and orphans and we will soon engage and make sure that they become policies.

I thank the honourable Member for asking these questions and I want to assure everybody living with disability in Papua New Guinea that the Marape-Steven Government is very concerned about including all of them, to be a part and player of our economy and our nation.

We will work very closely with the Community Development Department to ensure that we put some funding aside, but as for specifics, I urge the honourable Member for Unggai-Bena to contact the Minister for Community Development to see if the project he is talking about is in their plans and is viable.

### **Goroka Lacks Power Supply**

**Mr POGIO GHATE** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the State Enterprises Minister and is in regard to power supply in Eastern Highlands Province, the capital city of Eastern Highlands which is Goroka.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the power supply in Goroka is not sufficient for the consumers and the institutions such as hospitals, schools and others especially during the nights. It's very high risk.

I don't know what's really happening to the supply that we have even though the Ramu 2 is in Eastern Highlands.

I want to raise a concern here for the people living in hospitals and the communities living there. We cannot live without power.

Can you try to inform the PNG Power manager up in Goroka if he can take this seriously to solve this problem we are having in the province?

As we all know, there is a by-election going on now in Eastern Highlands Province and they also need power.

I receive power directly from Chimbu, particularly Chuave, into my district. That's another part of Daulo District LLG which is called Watabung.

The Upper Highlands leaders might agree with me that there is a power line that has been dropped for many years and I have kept on telling my manager and the manager at Kundiawa to see if they can come out to Watabung area to see if they can install this line on a pole. But this is taking too long and that's another concern that I have.

Is there any way that you can help reconnect this power line on the pole?

**Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and I thank the Member for Daulo for his important questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do acknowledge the power woes in the country and the specific challenges in Eastern Highlands.

Though I don't specifically know that gaps in terms of power generation in Eastern Highlands and the Ramu 2 has not come in yet. But, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to assure the vice-minister that I will pass his concern to PNG Power Board and the Managing Director to address this issue specifically, not only in terms of blackouts but also in terms of power capacity to supply to various institutions within Eastern Highlands, especially for the university and hospital there.

**07/06**

I also note his second question relating to damaged power lines between Chuave to Daulo District, that I also understand his concern. I will get PNG Power to immediately address these two issues.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I take this opportunity to clarify that the power inconsistency is not specifically for Eastern Highlands; we have been experiencing the same issue even in my own province in West New Britain, New Ireland Province and many other provinces as well.

For the Highlands provinces, it is more related to the aged infrastructures and the aged transformers and systems.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the World Bank and also all our development partners for their support in replacing the aged infrastructures mainly in the Ramu Grid and also, the Port Moresby Grid.

I also thank the Marape-Steven Government for the first time they have initiated decentralising in this power utility businesses to various provinces.

We have been in serious discussion with New Ireland Province and other selected provinces on where we can transfer these responsibilities with the training and its capacity. We are very keen in establishing and transferring these power businesses, especially in the rural outstations where we can build a capacity.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr PETER YAMA** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Firstly, on behalf of my people of Madang, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment in taking up the role as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Petroleum & Energy, State Enterprise and National Planning can take note.

A merging provision of the proposed *Organic Law* and the proposed *Energy Authority and Petroleum Authority Bills*, is structured in a way that only Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited (KPHL) and its subsidiaries are entitled to access and develop the oil and gas resources in this country. It makes mention of MRDC and its roles and decided to leave out National Gas Corporation Limited (NGCL). The new *Organic Law* effectively removes the NGCL roles and launched everything on KPHL.

This is despite the Prime Minister, James Marape making a public announcement that the Government will recognise NGCL in *section 179* disputed, legislated and mandated among the others to downstream processing and to be domestic gas –

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, with respect I interject to remind you that the question you are raising is in the notice paper 215, that it will be going before Parliament. So, if you can refrain your question to ask in a way where the Prime Minister can respond to you or I will rule out the question because, it is before the Parliament.

**Mr PETER YAMA** – My colleague brother from Manus Provincial Government represented Parliament cheques in the State Room, on the 13 February 2020 and it was reported in the *Post Courier* on Monday the 17; K990, 000. This is the document I have here, ‘Manus my share to the Gas Corporation’. That is what’s happening to all the governors in the country that we are also going to pay money to the Gas Corporation.

This is a resolution passed in Madang in the governor’s conference when I chaired the meeting in 2018. The questions are as follows;

**08/06**

(1) If this particular bill come into effect where does the National Gas Corporation stands, because some of the provincial governments have been paying money to the Gas Corporation?

(2) How does the role of the National Gas Corporation come into effect? The Prime Minister gave the undertaking in the State Room and Sir Peter Ipatas was there. He commended you for making the right decision and the Chairman of the National Gas Corporation was also there.

As Governors, we to see our provinces are participating in revenue collection in the province and are actively involved in our mineral resources. If you give the powers to KPHL, the bureaucracy and the people in Waigani will take control and make decisions on behalf of the Governors in the province.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, ask your question don’t enter into debate.

**Mr PETER YAMA** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. So, all I am saying here is that I know that the bill is on the Floor.

(3) Where do the Provincial Governors play their role in their respective province in terms of our resources. That is my concern.

This was also undertaken in a meeting in Kokopo where Sir Peter Ipatas was also there when the agreement was discussed in a Governors resolution on 22 May.

My concern is you legislated and mandated the Kumul Holdings to take control and run the entire Oil and Gas Sector and you don’t give the Governors the opportunity to take part in this and as a province we want to take part.

Consistent with the Prime Minister 's statement in the Parliament State Room. The government wanted to position Kumul Petroleum, National Gas Corporation and MRDC within this legislation boundaries so that they do not step on each other toes. That was the statement made in the *newspaper* on 17 of February 2020.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, get to you question.

**Mr PETER YAMA** – My question to the Prime Minister is because of this very important bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, if you still refer to the bill. I will not entertain your question but if get to the point of the question. I will ask the Prime Minister to answer your question

**Mr PETER YAMA** – Since you say so, I will finish with my question.

The *Organic Law* and the draft bill that is now before the Parliament. The Prime Minister should ensure there is proper consultation.

It should go back to the Governors and including yourself and the Minister, we should look and incorporating those bills. So that we don't overlook the *National Gas and Corporation Act* and marginalised it because these people have put a lot of time into it.

The Governors have also made payments and we have contributed our part as per our resolution in Madang and its unfair.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Thank you, Governor as I raised earlier that the matter is before the bill but then you have already asked the question. I will ask the honourable Prime Minister to answer your questions.

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me appreciate the question coming from the Governor of Madang.

09/06

I think he was trying to really establish what is the role of the National Gas Corporation in the entire restructure that is going on in as far as the proposed organic law that is still on put and before us in this House and it is already on the notice paper.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me assure the Governor of Madang as well as all other governors in the country that our government is pro-empowerment of our provincial governments to be self-sufficient and self-reliant in as far as raising revenue at where they can at their level in their provinces. In that context, what is the role of the National Gas Corporation? We have embarked on some changes and reforms.

We are not just talking for instance, in the PNG Water and EDA-RANU's structure, we are trying to re-fix and re-set a proper structure. In PNG Waters subsidiary, EDA-RANU will have shares parked that is, 60 per cent owned by PNG Water, 20 per cent owned by the Koiari land owners, 10 per cent owned by NCD and 10 percent owned by Central Provincial Government. That is consistence with our Marape-Steven's Government DNA that we need to empower people and provinces instead of just centralizing power and revenue in Waigani. Allow provinces to be self-sufficient and self-strengthened in wherever they can participate to support the Provincial Budgets at their level in as far as their fund collection and money collection for their service provisions is concerned.

Coming back to the role of National Gas Corporation, historically I note and for the records, National Gas Corporation is a vehicle by creation of law. I think Section 179 of the *Oil and Gas Act* has a provision where it establishes the National Gas Corporation. But, for some reason, in 2019 during the UBSA discussions and negotiations between the national governments, the provincial governments and land owners concerning PNG LNG, the role of National Gas Corporation was not fully activated in some ways, it was diluted.

So, upon us resuming office, we also acknowledge that the National Gas Corporation has a role to play especially in our quest to secure more gas for domestic markets. So, the National Gas Corporation can play that key role in ensuring they become the vehicle that secures all these domestic market for gas, for local businesses and other outside businesses too.

The National Gas Corporation is the vehicle I think was originally intended to be owned by provincial governments and that intention was shifted by our government but the intention still remains. I commend the Manus Provincial Government and few other provincial governments for buying shares to the National Gas Corporation. We will look into

refurbishing that vehicle to ensure that it is modernised and stepped up, and fill in the gap neatly to ensure that it participates in the domestic market for gas or in the gas industry.

So, to assure the governor, the role of NGC will not be diluted or succumbed into Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited. Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited and Kumul Mining Holdings Limited are just holding companies for various subsidiaries and business entities that will come under them whether it be in the mining space or oil and gas space.

So, in this instance, Kumul Petroleum will be elevated to participate and our Cabinet has already taken a decision on it. Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited is an upstream player and company holding National Government's interest especially equity interest as in the oil and gas business.

**10/06**

The downstream business will be transferred to National Gas Corporation as a provincial government entity and not only for provincial governments in the gas or oil areas. But also spreading the love and wealth to other provinces around the country, they can also participate in the gas and oil business. And that's the vehicle for them and we will tidy this vehicle to ensure it is modernised and stepped up. The board and company structure is fixed so that provincial governments and their interest can be carried in that vehicle that is already entrenched in law in as far as *Oil and Gas Act* is concern.

In conclusion, I want to assure the Governor that Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited, placed at upstream at holdings level and the National Gas Corporation is placed at midstream or domestic market gas participation, MRDC and its group of companies hold the landowner interest. So, there is an element of participation by all stakeholders in our country; national government, provincial government and the landowners in as far as Kumul National Gas and MRDC is concern.

So, your interest has not been diluted and if the current proposed law hasn't embraced this structuring of different level of participation then we will ensure that it is also taken care of.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.



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

Motion (by **Mr Powes Parkop**) 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.

**Eda Ranu and PNG Power in Port Moresby**

**Mr POWES PARKOP** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister for State Enterprises. And it relates to Eda Ranu and PNG Power especially in our capital city, Port Moresby.

Before I commence with my question, I want to thank the Prime Minister for the announcement about Eda Ranu, which I am sure both the Governor of Central Province and I will be elated on this decision because this company operates only in two provinces, districts and our capital city so it's proper that this decision was made.

I have five questions concerning Eda Ranu and one concerning PNG Power.

(1) Does Eda Ranu have any plans in place to expand its services in our capital city, Port Moresby?

Given that the city is physically expanding and the population also is increasing. But I have not seen any expansion with Eda Ranu.

(2) Is it true that the capacity at Mount Eriama water treatment plant has already reached its limit, if so, what is the plan to expand the capacity at Mount Eriama?

**11/06**

(3) Does *Eda Ranu* have plans to expand in terms of harnessing its water supplies from water catchment within the city; or is it only focused on the water that it is getting from Sirinumu Dam alone?

(4) When will *Eda Ranu* fix the water problem affecting the areas of Morata and some other settlements especially in the North-East electorate and also in our villages along in the Motu and Koitabu villages?

These people have so long cried for proper water supply and Eda Ranu is responsible for making sure there is water supply going to these areas. When will they solve all these water woes, do they even have any plans in place to do so.?

Eda Ranu has been operating since 1991, it has monopoly over water. Water is being used every second. It is like Digicel, every second you are using data so it has made a lot of money.

(5) When will Eda Ranu declare its profits to the rest of the city or the country for that matter? Has it made enough profit to give back to the government and also use it to improve its capacity?

My next question is in relation to PNG Power; similar to what I have asked regarding Eda Ranu. I have yet to see them put up new powerlines towards the new expanded residential areas in Taurama, 9 Mile and the lakeside around the new 9 Mile to Gerehu road.

(6) Does PNG Power have any plans to cater for the expansion of the city?

**Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL** – I thank the Governor for NCD for his questions. I have taken note of the concerns that he has raised, I will try my best to answer some. And others I will refer them to the respective organizations concerned and get a detailed response to the Governor.

Can I answer from the last question, on whether Eda Ranu makes any profit? Certainly, they make profit and the Governor is right but the special concession on the arrangement that was completed last year and now we have a great potential in growing this organization. To come to even talk about this K100 million profit per annum if we do things correctly. By bringing the right board, making the right appointments to positions within the organization.

Certainly, to give a quick example, between 2008-2018, when this was under a concession, they only declared about K40 million for the last ten years. At the same time, the smallest organization; Water PNG covers 22 centers but has only four profitable centers. Around the same time, they declared K98.3 million compared to what Eda Ranu declared because it was under a BOT arrangement. Now we have a new arrangement. And of course, we do have to invest in terms of maintaining and strengthening the infrastructure in order for us to make those profits.

We can assure you Governor that *Eda Ranu* is seriously talking about how we can bring about alternative water source, when the capacity that you mentioned rightly reaches its

maximum. There is a serious discussion on bringing alternative water supply for the city. There is also something on the Notice Paper about the merger of both Water PNG and *Eda Ranu*, which I hope will be one of the research programs that can be brought up during this session of Parliament, whereby we can meet some of these requirements to also enable us to bring forward much needed reforms, so that we can expand and improve these services everywhere.

The other concerns that the Governor was referring to regarding the villages and the other suburban areas, where there is currently no water supply, I will take it to Eda Ranu's attention.

**12/06**

I also want to thank the Member for Moresby North-East for creating this community project where there is a meter for people to pay for water based on how much they use. Many times, the members pay K1 million for a year or two and then when it is used-up we continue to supply without any payments.

Honourable Governor, in regard to *PNG Power*, I am sure you are aware of the additional generation capacity that has been coming into play, especially start of new power which is almost now six months, you have an additional 50 megawatt of power into the grid.

In fact, by the end of this year, we will be having over-supply in the city and we will be thinking of how we can utilise that power once it comes on board, which will be an additional capacity of another 40 megawatts.

The major challenge is the aging infrastructure especially in Port Moresby Grid and I am thankful that the World Bank is funding US\$30 million to fix the Port Moresby and Ramu Grid. Again, if these grids are running properly, it can reach the potential of achieving 70 per cent of the population getting connected to power.

So, Governor, I have taken note of all your concerns and I will make sure I will address all your questions and give you a proper answer.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL – PNG NATIONAL  
OCEAN POLICY 2020-2030 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –  
PAPER NOTED**

Mr DAVIS STEVEN (Esa'ala – Minister for Justice & Attorney-General–Deputy Prime Minister) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask leave of Parliament to make a statement in relation to this policy.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker and Members of the Honourable House, today I am particularly pleased as a leader of a remote island electorate to make a very important statement concerning our country's first-ever National Oceans Policy 2020-2030.

Mr Deputy Speaker, after almost 45 years of Independence, we now have a national framework to guide sustainable use, management and protection of our oceans and its natural resources.

The main features of the policy are as follows:

**A. PNG's Sovereignty over its Maritime Waters**

Mr Deputy Speaker, by international law standards, PNG is an archipelagic State, meaning that all the oceans around, between, and connecting the islands of PNG are subject to its sovereignty.

PNG, therefore, must exercise its sovereignty accordingly for the betterment of its people. PNG has done well to ratify the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1997.

Mr Deputy Speaker, UNCLOS is the universal constitution or legal framework that provides the rules regulating the rights and obligations of States in relation to the oceans.

Ratification of UNCLOS in 1997 meant that PNG must modernise her principal law governing the use and management of our oceans and maritime resources.

13/06

We commenced by enacting the *Maritime Zones Act* in 2015, almost 18 years later.

The *Maritime Zones Act* now provides certainty to our maritime zones which are respected by other coastal states, such as our neighbours including Australia, Indonesia,

Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands. The challenge PNG now faces is that of balancing our international law obligations under UNCLOS and its accompanying internal obligations to cater for a legal and policy framework governing responsibility at different levels of government. This policy now provides that guidance.

**(i) Maritime Boundaries**

Mr Deputy Speaker, in terms of our international borders, PNG shares maritime borders with Australia, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Indonesia.

These borders are managed under cooperative arrangements agreed between these countries and PNG. These international maritime boundaries are recognised under international law.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for those who may not be aware, PNG has an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covering an estimated 3.12 km<sup>2</sup> of marine waters and a coastline estimated at 17,110 km in length, extending along 14 maritime provinces.

PNG has the largest EEZ in the Pacific. Because of this large ocean space it is incumbent on our Government to adopt appropriate policy and legal framework to protect our oceans and natural resources and to protect and provide for our people's right and expectations in the development of our oceans and maritime resources.

I ask why this important work has been forgotten by successive governments. Why has it taken us 45 years to remember the coastal and island's people and our vast ocean potential?

**(ii) Coastal Livelihoods and Food Security**

Mr Deputy Speaker, I come from an island constituency in the biggest maritime province of our country. I, therefore, understand very well the critical role that the blue oceans play in the lives of our island and coastal peoples. Fisheries, coral reefs, mangroves and sea-grass habitats are all part of the environment to which coastal people's livelihoods have evolved from past generations to the present day.

We have a customary law claim over our oceans that must be recognised and protected. While we have sadly witnessed exploitation of our resources by outsiders and pretenders, our people have waited since independence for our government in Waigani to stop the destructive and unfair use of our marine resources and a real people's government that can provide us the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of our resources.

This is why I am happy to be a part of a party and government coalition that wants to take back this country from the hands of gullible traders, reckless and ignorant officials whose action or omissions benefit a few to the detriment of our silent suffering majority. I am happy to be a part of a new generation of leaders under this Prime Minister Marape who want to give back this country and its economic wealth to our people and the next generation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our National Oceans Policy, acknowledges and recognises the important role that our customs and traditional knowledge contributes to the wise use and management of our oceans and its resources.

The rights of our land and marine resource owners to the oceans and its resources are promoted and strengthened by the Oceans Policy. It is imperative that the development of oceanic and coastal resources must be undertaken with the full prior informed consent of land and coastal resource owners. And that benefits from such developments must be shared fairly and equitably according to our National Goals and Directive Principles of our *Constitution*.

**14/06**

Mr Deputy Speaker, we know that the full potential and economic value of our oceans has never been fully assessed and documented. Such an assessment must be the first step towards making informed decisions about how we deal with our marine space and its resources.

Now, after this policy our people have a legitimate expectation for Waigani to say no more fishing licenses, seabed mining licenses or even oil and gas rigs in our oceans without proper regard to the rights of our people and safety of our oceans and marine life.

Our National Oceans Policy recognises and deals with these challenges and many others. For example, the National Oceans Policy acknowledges the interconnectedness between land and mountains and coasts and island ecosystems. The policy provides the necessary tools to protect and support this fragile relationship between the land and sea environments.

### **B. Developing the Legal and Policy Framework for our Marine Space**

Mr Deputy Speaker, in developing the legal and policy framework for our maritime spaces, we must ensure that we do not stray from the reality of the context within which our country is placed. We have an international law by which we are a party to; but as a sovereign nation, how do we apply that law in our national framework, so that they complement each other?

Mr Deputy Speaker, as our stakeholders and partners fashioned the National Oceans Policy, I am happy that our *Constitution* and its Five National Coals and Directive Principles (NGDP) provided the inspiration. The most profound insight into the visionary thinking of our founding fathers Constitutional Planning Committee is reflected in the NGDP.

Goal Number 4 of the NGDP provides the basic tenets of our natural resources policies including the Oceans and its resources. It is not without significance there that our high-level government policy Vision 2050, which provides an overarching policy direction for the country, has its seven pillars which are anchored in the National Goals and Directive Principles. Vision 2050 calls for the Government to pursue environment sustainability and combat -climate change while pursuing economic developments. It mirrors the aspirations of the international community in this area as espoused under the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This is complemented by the 'National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development for Papua New Guinea' (STARS). I am happy to note therefore that the vision, mission and objectives of the National Oceans Policy is aligned with the Vision 2050 and STARS.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with the enactment of the *Maritime Zones Act* in 2015, we can now begin to define the spaces within which legal and policy gaps are identified and rectified. For example, the definition of land has been amended to include areas covered by water (foreshore). The interests of our local communities become relevant here and must be documented if developments are taking place in the foreshore.

The coastal waters have been defined to provide a legal demarcation for provincial interests to be taken into consideration in coastal and islands developments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for the purposes of environmental conservation and protection, a marine consent regime for the EEZ and continental shelf is proposed under the Oceans Policy,

The maritime sectors must be brought under one governance policy framework. There must be transparent processes identifying the activities we give consent to in the marine space and how these activities will be scrutinised from beginning to end.

**(i) International Tribunal, Law of the Sea, Advisory Opinion**

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members of this House to the legal requirements of States like us who sponsor mining or other geological

activities in their EEZ. I refer to the decision of the International Tribunal on Law of the Sea in the landmark decision of Seabed Disputes Chamber.

This advisory decision of the International Tribunal sets out our obligations as a State under international law including the duty to undertake due adequate due diligence before authorising seabed mining. The decision provides guidance on how to develop standards for a national framework before we undertake mining of our sea bed.

Our Oceans Policy recognises the above principles and is drafted with necessary safeguards.

**15/06**

**(ii) The Blue Economy**

Mr Deputy Speaker, without this Oceans Policy we will not begin the important work of development and implementation of the Blue Economy Plan.

The blue economy plan will focus on the maritime economy in PNG and provide the direction on its development and growth, while promoting the principles of sustainable use and management and equity concepts.

This means that economic benefits from our oceans and resources must be developed efficiently in an equitable and sustainable manner. Industries must all be fairly considered on their potential and opportunity to grow and generate revenue. Focusing only on one or two industries without a widely planned management and governance mechanisms, poses a threat to the biodiversity and ecosystem health.

The Blue Economy Plan must strike a balance between utilising our oceans economic potential whilst safeguarding its health and integrity so that our future generations can also benefit.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am determined that this policy is not going to collect dust in the corners of offices in Waigani. My people have been left out too long that I refuse to allow this policy to be forgotten and left by the way side.

In anticipation of the Policy, my department has already established the Oceans Affairs Office within Department of Justice with trained staff working on legislation and et cetera.

The next step after this policy launch is to formally establish our country's Marine Scientific Research Council which will regulate and licence scientific research in our oceans and coastal areas. This technical organisation is critical in that it will facilitate and provide



expert scientific advice to government on policy or legislative action touching our oceans and marine resources.

### **C. Conclusion**

Mr Deputy Speaker, allow me to respectfully implore leaders to think policy and use policy to drive legislations that will protect our national interest and create wealth for our people in a responsible manner.

We have the opportunity to take back our destiny and move forward to achieve the vision of a prosperous democratic nation built on the back of our cultural heritage, Christian values and rule of law as envisioned by our founding fathers.

We can build a wise, fair, safe and prosperous nation for our people. We can achieve our 2050 vision to be a prosperous middle-income country by 2050. Yes, we can lay the foundations today for a time when our country can become the richest black Christian country on earth.

With the abundant resource endowment and potential, we have in our nation, we all know that we can turn these dreams into reality one day. Fisheries Authority, National Maritime Safety Authority, National Weather Service and Research Institutions, today our vision may seem gloomy. Today we ask how we can ensure that the majority of our population, the people living in the villages; in the highlands, along the coasts and on the islands, are not left behind?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am optimistic that we will start to find answers to these and many other questions concerning our journey and experience as a country as we adopt good policies and laws like the Oceans Policy that underpins our nation's untapped potential in our blue economy.

I am confident - looking at the interest and collaboration of our government departments and agencies - in producing the policy document in a space of 12 months since I gave relevant ministerial direction in March 2019.

This policy was funded by our own Department of Justice and Attorney General and the National Fisheries Authority and National Maritime Safety Authority.

For their contribution and commitment, I thank leaders and officials from National Fisheries Authority, National Maritime Safety Authority, National Weather Service, UPNG and other research institutions both national and international.

I also acknowledge the contribution of all our maritime provinces and even those from our highlands region who participated in the process.

16/06

Mr Deputy Speaker, initial funding support from the Commonwealth Secretariat and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is acknowledged.

Without the hard work and cooperation of all of them, it would not be possible for our nation's first ever National Oceans Policy to be delivered to the Honourable House today.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA** (Kiriwina-Goodenough) – I move –

That the Parliament take note of the Paper.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I'd like to commend my countryman from Milne Bay Province, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is also my neighbor.

I want to participate in this important Bill because it's well overdue to be brought to the Floor of this Parliament. God in his great wisdom has given us these beautiful waters in Papua New Guinea. We cannot deny that the seas we have right throughout the world provide great goodness for the citizens of this country and the people of the Islands nations.

If we continue to abuse the waters and seas that we have around us through polluting, one day the same waters and seas that we enjoy today will turn around to be a problem to us.

I'd like to discuss the Ocean Policy as it is very important that policy must tie itself to the Climate Change Policy on Blue Waters. I am saying this because in the former government, which I was a minister, we attended several meetings and discussed blue water policies and the climate change effects in terms of blue waters.

Papua New Guineans are still way behind in formulating a policy in terms of blue waters and climate change. When you look at a nation like Fiji and other smaller nations, you will notice that they are beyond us in terms of preparations of the Blue Water Policy.

This paper that the Deputy Prime Minister has brought forward before us, the National Oceans Policy, again, I say it is well overdue. The waters that we have are the fastest flowing current in the world and in saying this, the fastest flowing waters have stored a lot of emissions from our mines and power stations in the country as well as from neighboring countries.

The waters actually store carbon emissions by carrying them through these fast-flowing waters, through God's wisdom, and take them into the deep waters and store the emissions there. And it is our duty as leaders to put certain policies in place. Not only policies but laws

in place to make sure that we protect these vast oceans that we have in this country. And my Kiriwina-Goodenough electorate actually floats on this ocean. Our people depend on the ocean every day. Where there is no garden, people know how to sustain themselves from these waters.

I would like to remind the Deputy Prime Minister and his department, in their wisdom in formulating the Oceans Policy, to take into consideration the peat soils we have in this country.

**17/06**

The peat soils are important when it comes to emissions and climate change. The vast mangroves that we have grown in peat soils that store emissions.

Mr Deputy Prime Minister, the legislation must consider the importance of peat soils. I say this because when you go down to Motukea today the developers have ignored the mangroves that play an important part in preventing erosion.

Five years ago, Motukea area was covered with vast mangroves but today more than 50 percent of those mangroves have disappeared because of developments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, PNG holds somewhere between 8 to 10 percent of the flora and fauna in this country. And out in the seas some of these creatures that are yet to be discovered by the world are found in PNG.

It's very important that we must protect these flora and fauna which are not found in other parts of the world. And foreign fishermen only come here to destroy and get these things away from us.

If you visit Kiriwina-Goodenough today, there are a lot of illegal fishermen out in the sea fishing; they come from Asian countries and even dive into our waters and use weapons and break open the clam shells and remove the inside part and leave behind the empty shells. We only found out this when we went diving to collect our sea cucumbers. These clams shells took some 50 to 100 years to grow.

Therefore, with this National Ocean Policy, it is very important that we must make sure that we work closely with the Department of Immigration and other law enforcers such as Police personnel and Defence Force to make sure that we protect this vast ocean that we have.

Let me say this on this Floor of Parliament; we may have one of the very last oceans that still has the resource in it. There are a lot of illegal fishing boats that come and remove

our tuna and other sea creatures from the ocean. And one day the Island like Kiriwina-Goodenough will be left with nothing to depend on.

That's why now I am raising my voice because tomorrow when I am not around in this Parliament somebody will rise and say, what have you got for our small Islands?

I am grateful for this policy and when it is passed on this Floor of Parliament it will protect most of these smaller islands. These islands are scattered all over out in the middle of the ocean and you cannot see them but hundreds and thousands of people live on these islands. Kiriwina has a total population of 70 000 people and Goodenough has more than 20 000 people living on it, therefore, and we must protect these small islands through this policy.

Finally, Father God has given us power and authority to take care of this ocean, and we must use our wisdom to protect this ocean. If we ignore it, one day it will spit on our face and we will wonder why tidal waves and disasters have struck.

We have seen and witnessed natural disasters because we have caused them to happen.

**18/06**

Disasters are happening because we humans cause them to happen. If we protect our environment, it will in turn protect us.

**Mr ALFRED MANASE** (Kandep) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to contribute in this debate. Firstly, I would like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Justice and Attorney General for bring this important policy to this Parliament. I think these are some of the important policy initiatives that need our focus and attention.

I support his concluding statement where he implored that the leaders 'think policy' and use policy to drive legislation that will protect our national interests and create wealth. I think that is a very important statement. What is national interest? National interest is about the country and its people and most of the time because of situations occurring in the country we forget these collective national interests.

This can only be driven if we, 'think policy' in the way it should be. We have over time forgotten about policy and we have become more like implementing agencies. I think I have expressed some of those views yesterday or the other day when we were debating on the legislation brought forward by the Minister for Works. Once we do not 'think policy', we forget national interests. It is important that we take this comment by the Deputy Prime

Minister on board in our consideration, in our conduct and our endeavors to ensure we provide the leadership that is necessary for our people.

So, that once we 'think policy' and collectively we contribute to those policies, then we all think about national interests. And that should in fact lead the legislative agenda on this Floor of Parliament. Because, policy comes about as a result of inefficiency, problems and issues that a leader may see in his own department or sphere of operation, such that it requires this kind of policy intervention. And I commend the Deputy Prime Minister for bringing this National Oceans Policy which is a critical policy.

Most of the time all activities happen on land and where majority of the people live so we focus more on development agendas on the land. And we turn to forget the existence of our own people. Who live and survive on the blue ocean. I think I share the sentiments of some of the Members who live on islands in the ocean. As we all know, it is now becoming more urgent due to the impact of climate change on the ocean. It will become a threat to our people and to their existence on those islands in the ocean.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have to be very careful in our policy initiatives, bearing in mind the existence of a group of people who live on those oceans.

**19/06**

I think the members for Samarai-Murua and Kiriwina-Goodenough have all expressed sentiments on their exposure to the ocean and how the peoples' livelihoods depend on the ocean. So, it is incumbent on us in the House to collectively work to protect those very people who live by the sea. When we collectively recognise the existence of our own people then questions such as deep-sea mining and issues such as deep-sea tailing should become apparent for the very reasons why we should have them or not. And, this should be driven by proper policy analysis, investigation, and evidences and properly tabled and articulated so that everyone who will be affected can contribute because it is their own livelihood that is going to be affected by the changes in the policies.

It appears that most of the time we do not have policies guiding how we dump tailings into the sea so there is not much debate. The other day the Minister for Environment and Conservation expressed some views. It is fortunate that the Minister has got that technical qualification so he can adequately express some of those things. But what happens if a minister in the same position has got no technical capability to understand those things and he

is pushed to drive a policy that will have a wider impact on the economy, environment and effect on the ocean itself and its livelihood?

So, I think it is very important that some of these critical changes on how we operate are more policy-driven than trying to satisfy developers or ourselves because we are running into some problems with our economy to push some projects in quickly. It is very important that most of these development agendas, and more particularly where it has an interest on the livelihoods of our people to serve national interests, should be policy-driven, well-discussed and everybody contributes to that agenda to make a collective decision to make a change in the way we operate.

The Oceans Policy is a start and the Deputy Prime Minister and those who live by the ocean will appreciate it. So, I support this and I urge all of us to be proactive in ensuring that the policy matures in terms of legislative agendas.

Thank you.

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

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

**COCOA BOARD OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

**Mr JOHN SIMON** (Maprik – Minister for Agriculture and Livestock) – I seek leave of the Parliament to make a statement in relation to the Report.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise before this Honourable House to present to the people of this great nation, the Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea – 2017 Annual Management Report.

20/06

Mr Deputy Speaker, I also would like to admit to the House the lateness in getting this report to the House and the problems with our public institutions not getting our reports in time to the House. So, if we could get all our other institutions to work together so that in future we don't have reports to the House two to three years late.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in saying that, it is a statutory requirement under section 63 of the *Public Finances (Management) Act* 1995 that an annual management report of any public institution be presented to Parliament.

Therefore, it is indeed a pleasure for me to present this 2017 Annual Management Report of the Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea to this honourable House.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea is an agriculture commodity regulatory organisation created under section 4 of the *Cocoa Act* 1981.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Cocoa Board functions to control and regulate the growing, processing and marketing of cocoa beans and cocoa products.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the cocoa industry is a lucrative rural based agriculture industry which contribute about more than K300 million to the gross domestic product annually. We have a total of about currently more than 400 000 households in both the coastal and highlands region of Papua New Guinea who depend on cocoa as a main cash crop and it usually impacts the rural livelihoods.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on record as well, not only our coastal areas in Papua New Guinea are growing cocoa; the highlands regions of Papua New Guinea is also growing cocoa, and the district of Karimui recorded the best cocoa in this country as well.

Mr Deputy Speaker as we all know the cocoa industry was devastated in 2006 by the cocoa pod borers. It first started in East New Britain Province and spread to almost all of the cocoa producing provinces. It reduced the production and quality of cocoa very much. It therefore has affected the livelihoods of many rural citizens who depend entirely on growing cocoa.

Mr Deputy Speaker, despite the devastation by the pest, the industry survived through intervention programs initiated by the Cocoa Board through support from various governments.

Growers have adapted to the programs designed to counter and eradicate the cocoa pod borer pest. With the intervention programs in place the production of cocoa is improving and increasing every cocoa year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, cocoa is now also grown, as I have said, in some areas of the highlands of Papua New Guinea, especially in Chimbu, Jiwaka, Eastern Highlands and other areas of the highlands.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I also take note the Karimui District in Chimbu Province is taking the lead in cocoa production in the highlands. Karimui so far has more than 1067 farmers who have planted more than 671 998 cocoa trees and harvested a total of more than 16 193 kilograms of cocoa from more than 255 bags.

Mr Deputy Speaker we are encouraging more farmers by establishing nurseries in in each of the participating cocoa districts in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the 2017 cocoa year, Papua New Guinea produced a total of 420 799 tons of cocoa, six per cent or 2 291 tons more than the previous cocoa year. Most of the cocoa that was exported brought in a total revenue of more than K270.7 million.

This corresponds to a 25 per cent decline or K90 million less compared to the previous year in 2016. The lower export earnings were a direct result of lower cocoa prices internationally, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The increase in production was attributed mainly to conducive weather that supported the crops development in PNG and the success of various interventions programs in the industry coming into fruition.

21/06

### **District Cocoa Nursery Project**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Cocoa Board has embarked on a District Cocoa Nursery Program. The program aims to have a nursery in each of the cocoa districts to assist farmers to increase production and to eliminate disease by centrally coordinating all activities from nursery to planting, harvesting and production.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have established 79 main nurseries in each project site and 21 satellite nurseries to further support quick distribution and supply of cocoa seedlings to cocoa farmers.

We have planted more than 1,580, 322 cocoa seedlings through this program, which equates to 2,528 acres at 625 trees per hectare. About 295,496 cocoa seedlings were raised in the nurseries at each project site in 2017 and a total of more than 9,213 farmers have planted cocoa seedlings in their cocoa plots and that was an increase production.



### **Cocoa Freight Subsidy Scheme**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Cocoa Freight Subsidy Scheme (CFSS) was set up with the primary purpose to promote cocoa activity as the premier and sustainable income earning opportunity for remote area farmers. The Cocoa Board through this new initiative intends to promote and increase production and quality through its transport and marketing intervention approach.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the cocoa subsector organisations are used as a primary vehicle for achieving the objectives of the project and mandate of Cocoa Board of PNG and the Industry. Almost all cocoa growing provinces are covered under the freight subsidy project.

The objective of the project was to provide market access to high potential inaccessible remote districts in the country to move their cocoa to markets. An estimated 10 to 15,000 tons of cocoa valued at more than K30 million to K40 million get stranded in remote areas of the country.

This project is proving to be effective in ensuring extension services to the cocoa growers is facilitated when the freight program continues to promote and support a continuing development of a sustainable cocoa industry in the rural and inaccessible district. The Freight Subsidy Scheme is yielding very positive results.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea's income in 2017 was about K9,435,748 million and expenses were at K11,085,963 million. A net deficit of about K1,650,215 million was brought forward to the 2018 cocoa year.

With that, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea and the hard-working Management and the staff of Cocoa Board for the successful Cocoa year 2017. I also wish to acknowledge and extend my sincere gratitude to the Cocoa Industry players and their staff.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I commend the Cocoa Board 2017 Annual Management Report to this Honourable House, I would like to request if you would allow me to answer a question that was raised yesterday.

## ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

**Mr JOHN SIMON** (Maprik – Minister for Agriculture and Livestock) – I seek leave of the Chairs to respond to a previous question regarding NAQIA. The question relates to importation of live chicken, which was raised by the Member for Yangoru-Saussia.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Go ahead, leave is granted.

**Mr JOHN SIMON** – Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to make it clear to this House; NAQIA does not allow importation of live chicken into the country.

22/06

The Member for Yangoru-Saussia will be fully aware, as a former Commerce Minister and during his time with NDB, he was on the board of Mainland Holdings, that there is a protocol in place for Niugini Table Birds to bring in only fertile eggs or day-old chicks. And that is for parent stock which is changed annually. It is not bringing in live chicken into the country.

Having said that, I just want to clarify the objective of NAQIA. The objective and function of NAQIA has prescribed under the Act for all focus toward preventing and minimising risk of pest and diseases.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at that time, a foreigner in the country came to my office with some information. He said, minister, if you don't agree with me, I will give this paper to the Opposition and they will criticise the Government. I told him you can't blackmail me and I will not allow that. This is not good.

I have written a letter to the Minister for Immigration and Foreign Affairs regarding this issue so, I wasn't surprised that this issue was raised on the Floor.

NAQIA's role is not to impose restriction. Its role is only based on risks such as pests and diseases, where they can impose restrictions. NAQIA can't impose restriction on importation when there is a protocol in place with certain countries. They can't go and do that. That role is with the Department of Commerce and Industry; not with NAQIA.

That particular foreigner asked me to impose restriction and importation and I can't do it. He was a former employee of Nuigini Table Birds, and I asked him why he didn't put a stop when he was with Nuigini Table Birds.

**Mr Alfred Manase** – Point of Order! The Parliament granted him leave to speak on his Paper on Cocoa Board and not NAQIA.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, the Chair has granted him leave to make a statement on the question.

Honourable Minister, respond to the question and refrain from making personal attacks on others.

**Mr JOHN SIMON** – I thank you both, Mr Deputy Speaker and the Member for Kandep.

In fact, the question was asked to the Prime Minister, but because the sector falls under my ministry I felt obliged to respond considering that it is of national interest; whether we are allowing importation of live chicken. An issue was also raised that we do not care about the small holders in the industry in terms of chicken, but we do care. The statement was incorrect and I am trying to correct that part; we are not allowing the importation of live chicken into the country.

But the issue came before me and I told the particular guy that I have no right to stop it with unless that country is infected with diseases and pests then NAQIA will look into that. We cannot stop the importation of chicken.

That's what I told that officer and he said he would take the matter up to the Opposition. 'I will take the matter to the Opposition. I said, go ahead and do that.

So, having said that, I want to correct it again. We do not bring in live chicken and NAQIA doesn't allow that. The only day-old chicks that NAQIA allows is for Nuigini Table Birds and Zenag's annual parent stock.

Having said that, I thank the Opposition.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I commend the Cocoa Board 2017, Management Annual Report to this Honourable House.

**23/06**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, RELIGION AND YOUTH –  
ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2019 – PAPER –  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

**Mr WAKE GOI** (Jimi – Minister for Community Development, Religion and Youth)  
– Mr Deputy Speaker, pursuant to statute, I present the following Paper:

*‘Annual Management Report of the Office of Censorship, 2019.’*

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

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is a great honor for me to present to Parliament the achievements by the Office of Censorship in 2019 and the way forward in the implementation of its programs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Office of Censorship is established under the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989. The Censorship Office functions within the mandate of the National Censorship Board and that is to implement and enforce the policy directions and decisions made by the Board.

One of the greatest achievements by the Censorship Office is the establishing of the new Censorship Board which came into effect in July of 2019 following several years of being dormant since 2014.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the rapid growth and expansion of the Censorship Office is a result of a number of national government approval and direction. In chronological order, the following lists the National Executive Council (NEC) decisions that effected notable changes to the current Censorship Office set-up.

1. NEC Decision No. NG 54/2007 approved the whole of the rebranding exercise pursued by the then National Censorship Board and the Office of Censorship. The National Censorship Board and the Office of Censorship undertook initially steps to rebrand and re-strategize its operations and existence overall.

2. NEC Decision No. 128/2008 approved for additional funding to support the legislative, policy and structural reform. An organizational structure was pursued in 2013 including the elevating of the position of the Chief Censor.

3. NEC Decision No. 233/2014 approved for the Office of Censorship to seek financial status by establishing the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) in 2015 and the revised organizational restructure exercise undertaken in 2017 resulted in increasing its staff ceiling from 25 to 60 with establishment of 3 main divisions in addition to the Executive Management; the Strategic Policy and Coordination, Enforcement and Compliance; and the Corporate Services.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this upgrading is in line with the reviewing of the Censorship Act which seeks to recognize the Office of Censorship as a statutory authority.

#### **Legislative & Policy Review Status**

Mr Speaker, considering the immediate need to meet developments in the global ICT sector, the Office of Censorship pursued review on the Censorship Act in 2014. In collaboration with the Constitutional Law & Reform Commission (CLIRC) a 'Classification of Films Publications and Online Services Bill 2014' was developed.

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The Bill has since been forwarded to the office of the State Solicitor for issuance of the 'certificate of necessity'. However, ongoing cross-sectional consultation with relevant laws further referred the bill to Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAGI) for legal clearance and approval. The bill is currently pending completion of this process.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the regulation of the *Act* has also been reviewed internally in which new and revised fees for publication premise registration and classification of publication is completed. The proposed fees have been submitted to Department of Finance (DoF) and approval has been granted for gazettal and implementation.

#### **Achievements of major activities and programs in 2019**

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to now present the achievements by the Office of Censorship for the year 2019.

##### **1. Reviews on Censorship Policy and Corporate Plan (2013 - 2018)**

Mr Deputy Speaker, following the lapse of the first National Censorship Policy

in 2018, the Censorship Office undertook several regional consultative workshops for the purposes of reviewing the Censorship Policy. A total of 3 regional consultations have taken place with the Southern and National consultations yet to be completed. Participants in the regional consultations appreciated the initiative and have committed to ensure implementation of the Policy at the provincial level. The next Policy is year marked for implementation in 2019 - 2023.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Office also undertook several internal reviews to its Corporate Plan which lapsed at the end of 2018. A total of 10 key priority areas for implementation have been identified and are captured in the current draft document. A significant inclusion in the draft Plan is the proposed organisational structure which seeks to further increase staff capacity for the Censorship Office as it prepares to subsume additional roles and functions as a result of modern information and communication technology. This includes the need to regulate and monitor the flow of information content online.

Mr Deputy Speaker, both the Policy and the Corporate Plan documents will be launched by August of 2020.

## **2. Upgrading of the internal ICT infrastructure**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Office of Censorship is currently in the process of upgrading its internal ICT infrastructure with the procurement of a new server. This activity is funded under the Public Investment Project (PIP) and its aim is to develop a modern ICT section within the office set-up to assist effect tasks relating to use of IT and other online systems for enforcement and compliance purposes.

Modern technology has enhanced the way information is communicated and disseminated hence the difficulty in keeping up to pace with these changes is lacking within the organization. As the office begins discussions with the Department of Communication and Information (DCI) regarding the use of the Cyber Security Centre, the Censorship office is therefore required to have in place an updated and effective ICT system to be able to meet expected demands and requirements.

## **3. Guidelines for Regulating the Music Industry**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the mandate of the Censorship Office is to enforce the Censorship Law and thereby ensure the people and stakeholders comply with this

law. Regulating the music industry is a core area the Censorship Office has embarked on by developing draft guidelines for stakeholder consultations. In line with its role in protecting and upholding the spiritual, cultural and moral values of society, the Censorship Office in the recent past has taken the lead in banning a number of locally produced musical works given the song lyrics have promote sexual and indecent themes. As such the office is preparing to conduct consultation with related stakeholders on this matter.

**25/06**

#### **4. Research on Media and Sexual Content**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Censorship Office has come a long way in terms of developing an ethical research framework to enable collection of data and information to support a number of its initiatives. Since 2014, the research program is targeted at primary and secondary school students as they represent a significant part of the population.

In 2019, the Office through its Research section undertook preliminary research on media and sexual content focusing on young people. The aim of the research is to collate feedback and data on young people's perception of utilising modern information and communication technology such as the mobile phone and Internet. A preliminary report on this research containing facts and figures including related data has been compiled for review and amendment.

#### **5. Decentralization on the Powers of the Chief Censor**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the *Censorship Act* of 1989 empowers the Chief Censor to disseminate some of its powers and responsibilities to the provincial and local level governments. It was initiated on the back drop of the censorship function as a national function however the provinces could not do much about pornographic issues that exist in the provinces. This initiative will empower lower levels of authorities to conduct and perform national functions within their capacity. This is a follow-on from 2018 where a number of consultative meetings were conducted in 7 provinces to identify established committees within the provincial administrative structures.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the notion is to utilize existing structures to be responsible for the delegated powers. The provinces identified will be the pilot provinces for the implementation of the decentralization program and thereby contribute towards establishing a

suitable mechanism that is conducive to identify problem areas in the provinces. The signing of instruments of delegation and other administrative processes are yet to commence.

### **Ongoing & Recurrent Activities**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the ongoing and recurrent activities of the Censorship Office as prescribed under the *Censorship Act* include:

#### **1. Inspection and Registration**

The Censorship Office conducts regular inspections on all publication premises throughout the country to ensure compliance of the *Censorship Act* and other required laws and practices of the Government. As a major function, the office is also required to undertake inspection in collaboration with line agencies such as the Police, Customs, IPA and Immigrations through approved joint operations.

#### **2. Collection of non-tax Revenue**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Censorship Office is recognised as one of the revenues generating agencies hence its contribution to the non-tax revenue sector is significant. The Censorship Office upholds this function by ensuring its yearly targets are achieved year in and year out. Collection of the non-tax revenue is mainly from the registration of publication premises and the classifying of publications including films and movie titles.

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### **Conclusion**

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the last 3 years, the Censorship Office has experienced rapid growth and expansion as a result of the policy, legislative and structural reform enacted through numerous NEC decisions. The growth and expansion are necessary amidst a growing trend on the use of modern information and communication technology of which the primary role of the Office is to enable content suitability in all forms of the mass media and other information systems.

However, this form of responsibility has shifted to consider the use of mobile phone and Internet that has enabled increased and rapid distribution of illicit and indecent types of information and materials both on and offline. Additionally, the aggregated use of social media to defame and discriminate another person is also a growing concern whereby laws



such as the *Censorship Act* and the *Cybercrime Code Act of 2014* have no legal mandate to prosecute an offender henceforth the need for the review of the *Censorship Act of 1989*.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as Papua New Guinea continues to embrace new and improved forms of ICT, the country and its people will continue to face prevailing consequences and associated effects. The role of the National Censorship Board and the Office of Censorship is therefore paramount in ensuring the citizens of this country, and in particular the young and disadvantaged people fully exercise their right to freedom of speech and information by accessing decent forms of content in all forms of the mass media and information systems.

The Department of Community Development and Youth, the National Narcotic Bureau may not be very significant agencies to have but they play a very important role. Our citizens of today will bring the country forward tomorrow and into the future so in areas of consulting at the district provincial and national levels, we must consider them and set aside something for them to communicate with them so it will be a balance.

We can grow the economy but if we do not raise our younger generation of today, we will run into many problems in the near future.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

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

That Parliament take note of the Report and debate be adjourned.

Debate adjourned.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – “THE NEW NORMAL”,  
LIVING WITH COVID-19 – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

**Mr JELTA WONG** (Gazelle – Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS) – Mr Deputy Speaker, my fellow Ministers and Honourable Members and Parliamentarians.

I rise to give update and inform this Honourable House and the Nation about the New Disease – Coronavirus, Covid-19 that has been declared as a world pandemic by the World Health Organization since it was discovered in Wuhan, China in November 2019.

This Modern-Day Pandemic has infected more than 23 million people and killed over 800, 000 all over the world in the last 8-9 months. No nation is spared including Papua New Guinea.

Although, we came a little late to the scene; we had a sharp surge in the last three (3) weeks with 361 confirmed cases and four (4) deaths.

Mr Deputy Speaker, after learning of the pandemic, the Department of Health started early in January 2020 and established the National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), developed the Emergency Response Plan and advised the Marape-Steven Government. Our Government took the Pandemic very seriously and shut the International Borders, Public Services and Business Houses, stopped local flights and declared a State of Emergency.

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The Government went further to pass the National Pandemic Bill and allocate resources to do awareness and prepare the nation for the pandemic.

Mr Deputy Speaker, much is being heard and seen around the world on how serious the disease is and we are experiencing the PNG Version of the pandemic. We can confidently conclude that Covid-19 is already on our shores and is spreading within our communities so we cannot be complacent. We must do everything possible to control the epidemic and prevent further deaths.

Mr Deputy Speaker, does that mean we continue to close our borders, our schools and public institutions and the private Sector?

Ours is a small economy and we just cannot afford to shut down the economy otherwise we will face much more serious economic problems that will trigger more internal socio-economic problems that will be difficult to manage over the years to come.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to mitigate the pandemic and also to navigate the national economy out of these doldrums, the Marape-Steven Government in its wisdom decided not to close down the economy, instead has decided for PNG to live with the Coronavirus Covid-19.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in order to do that, the Government developed a strategy called the – ‘New Normal’ (Niupela Pasin). This strategy directs our people to change some of our ways, attitudes and characters so that we can prevent individuals from catching the disease and control the spread of the disease in our communities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is now the desire of my Ministry, the Department of Health, the Provincial Health Authorities to partner with the provincial governments, the DDAs and all

the other departments and agencies of Government plus the Private Sector and the communities to embrace the 'New Normal' (Niupela Pasin) strategies and implement it at all levels to mitigate and control the pandemic in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the 'Niupela Pasin', is in line with PNG's *National Pandemic Act 2020*. It has been thought out very well by our national and international experts and is expected to protect the eight million people of the country, only if we can faithfully implement and practice these simple but extremely important steps, then we will be just fine.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to successfully implement the Niupela Pasin Strategy, we must understand the PNG Covid-19 pandemic, its characteristics and behaviours to adequately contain the disease in our communities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, we must identify and manage our mild and asymptomatic cases. We also need to understand and assess the risk they currently have and what threat they have on the society.

Mr Deputy Speaker, these are critical factors that can only be deduced with a good break down of statistics supporting case management efforts. The first casual cases were detected as follows: March, three cases, April, three cases; June, five cases; and increased to 53 cases in July 2020 and by 20 August, was at 361. This needs to be fully examined and re-examined.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this began with the detection of four cases at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) and one at the PMGH laboratory. Due to increase testing and contract tracing more cases were detected. Most of these cases were mild cases and several moderate cases.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are two possible reasons for this increase in the number of cases in the CPHL and there are:

- (1) The staff could have acquired the infection in the communities due to an undetected community transmission and due the limited number of tested performed in NCD or
- (2) There could have been a bio-security breach at the CPHL. The staff that got infected was doing the testing on the Covid-19 samples.

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Wearing of the incorrect PPE could have been a reason. A report is currently being compiled to ascertain the reasons for the cluster detected at the CPHL and PMGH.

### **Covid-19 Testing**

Mr Deputy Speaker, testing in PNG is predominantly through PCR conducted mostly by PNGIMR with support from CHPL, and laboratories in Brisbane and Singapore. GeneXpert is also used for rapid tests throughout the provinces; however, tests in the provinces have been exceptionally low despite the continuous reminders for PHAs to scale up the testing. These have resulted in the low numbers of cases detected in the provinces. Testing sample kits and reagents have been sent to the provinces to ensure that the provinces conduct testing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, cases continue to increase rapidly in Papua New Guinea despite low testing. In the past 14 days, 212 newly confirmed cases have been reported with now 10 out of 22 provinces affected, of which 5 reported Covid-19 cases for the first time. Of these new cases, 123 (58 per cent) have been reported from all three districts of NCD, but majority of these are not epidemiologically linked (investigations are still ongoing) which indicates wide-spread community transmission in NCD.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Western Province has a large localized cluster. Morobe has one of its five cases with no epidemiological link. The seven other provinces have reported one to two sporadic cases, with majority having travel history from Port Moresby or contact with a positive case from Port Moresby demonstrating the extent of transmission in the National Capital District.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with the lack of movement restriction and low compliance to non-pharmaceutical interventions in Port Moresby, rapid increase in cases is expected and with the movement to provinces, it is expected to see infrequent cases and local clusters reported by other provinces.

Mr Deputy Speaker, testing in all provinces remains critically low, therefore ongoing transmission in other parts of the country is a possibility as population mobility continues. Importation from bordering Papua Province in Indonesia and incoming travellers from other countries reporting Covid-19 cases also remains a threat. Testing needs to increase substantially to understand the extent of the transmission.

### **National Control Centre Blue Print**

Mr Deputy Speaker, to improve coordination from the National Covid-19 Control Centre (NCC), the Control Centre Operational blue print was finalised and endorsed by the Controller, aimed at facilitating the transition from the National Operations Centre to the

National Control Centre. The document lays out the operational structure for all agencies involved to monitor the implementation of NCC blue print.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this blue print is to guide the operation of the National Control Centre in the implementation of the *National Pandemic Act 2020* and the 'Niupela Pasin' and it will be a living document which will be reviewed in four (4) weeks and further reviewed as and when required.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it also captures the coordination mechanism between the NCC and the Provincial Control Centres (PCCs), and the minimum coordination requirements from all relevant agencies key to the operational function of the National Pandemic Response including, the law enforcement agencies, border control and points of entries.

The economic Sectoral measures under this blue print will be included in the first review to be conducted on September 6, 2020. The intent of these economic sectoral measures is to align with the health response measures in terms of how the sectors will integrate their operational responses with each alert levels.

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### **Treatment Guidelines**

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is a guideline developed by the Covid-19 Health Advisory Committee (MESAC) to provide guidance on how to deal and manage cases in a harmonized manner when it comes to their clinical treatment.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the other guidelines include the following; Incident Management Guideline; Home Quarantine Guideline; Community Quarantine Guideline; National Awareness and Communication Strategy and NCD Surge Plan have been developed within this guideline.

### **Scientific and Medical Research**

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Pandemic Response Coordination Group, including the medical and scientific team who meet on a daily basis have been put on notice to deliver on two key broad requests. The first one is to have information available on the post-isolation experience of those who have recovered.

Mr Deputy Speaker, their stories, and level of stigma they encountered and related findings to the first cases have been gathered and this information will assist the National Response team's plans and response to minimize these findings.

Mr Deputy Speaker, an Immune System Study or at least some assessment from the Clinical Management teams on the human immune system behaviour and how it responds to the virus studies are conducted by our clinicians.

### **Provincial Coordination and Challenges**

Mr Deputy Speaker, provincial coordination continues to improve as the operations go along. A huge challenge faced by the team has been the disparity between the provinces in doing the submission of information on time and in a holistic manner.

Mr Deputy Speaker, planned improvements moving forward under the NCC Blue Print will be to organise a common reporting template for all provinces with the following requirements.

### **Accountability**

Mr Deputy Speaker, when the declaration period is over under the *National Pandemic Act 2020*, the National Parliament will require a report to be tabled that includes an audit into the books of the NCC.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as the operation moves forward, a balance consideration has to be given on how the NCC can establish the mechanism to support this including having an inventory of assets, as well as good neutrally published report on the entire operations. There is consideration to outsource or tender this work to reputable firms such as Price Waterhouse Coopers or Delloite, but not limited to these two only.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is to ensure credibility and accountability, while satisfying the country that information on the completion of the operation was submitted on time.

### **Covid-19 Financing**

Mr Deputy Speaker, pandemic of such magnitude requires a lot of funding. This pandemic hit the country at a time when the PNG's economy was struggling. However, the Marape-Steven Government took the challenge head-on, did not gamble with the lives of the people and made some unpopular decisions to protect and safe-guard the people of this great nation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, without the smartness and wisdom of this Government, we would not have come this far. The government shut-down the economy, mobilized its partners and resources to arrest the pandemic.

The Health Covid-19 Pandemic Response Plan costed around K1.139 billion. This amount captured the nine (9) clusters as following: (i) clinical management - K960 million; (ii) communication & social measure - K15 million; (iii) non-pharmaceuticals - K102.5

million; (iv) rapid response & surveillance - K12million; (v) infection prevention & control - K16.6 million; (vi) point of entry - K12.5 million; (vii) laboratory - K13 million; and (ix ) operational logistics - K7.7 million.

The Marape-Steven Government was able to mobilize K110.3 million and provided the money to the Health Sector to address the pandemic. This amount does not include funds that were released to the other sectors for the Pandemic. The development partners, private sector and many other friends also contributed to address this enemy.

**30/06**

Mr Speaker, our development partners were able to contribute around K360 million; however, most of these funds were not brought on-shore but left offshore due to the issues of Foreign Exchange (FOREX) and purchased medical equipment like ventilators, incinerators and Personal Protective Gears from abroad which are beginning to arrive in the country. Only Australia and New Zealand provided a cash support of K21.5 million and K6.3 million respectively.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from the K45.3 million released initially from the Government, K4.4 million was released to the PHAs including the total funding from DFAT and New Zealand. Further K37 million will be disbursed to the provinces this week from the latest K67 million that were released by the Government this month. The other K30 million will be used at the National level to purchase additional PPEs and cover other operational costs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the funds are managed through the Health Sector Improvement Program (HSIP) which is the trust account. I must make clear to this People's House that the funds are prudently managed and are subject to scrutiny and audit.

#### **Health Sector Financing and Services Delivery**

Mr Deputy Speaker, I must inform this Honourable Parliament that the Health Services delivery is to the eight million people of this country. Health Services are therefore not centered around one (1) disease like the Coronavirus or the Covid-19. It is comprehensive and covers all other diseases like TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, respiratory diseases, cancers that kill 7,500 people every year, vaccines for preventable diseases like Measles, Whooping Cough, maternal health and birth-related complications that kills up to 271 Papua New Guinean mothers from 100,000 births per year. We do surgeries and we manage a network of 3,857 health facilities in the country which include 22 hospitals, nine level district hospitals,

737 level health centers, 40 Community Health Posts and 3,056 Aid Posts. Forty-seven per cent of these are managed by the Church and Catholic Health Services of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my greatest fear is not to compromise the health of the PNG citizens from all the others conditions and diseases when we are concentrating on Covid-19. I must make sure all the facilities are open, outreach clinics and theatres are running daily, labour wards are delivering babies, surgeries are in the theatres, patients are referred and repatriated under the management of our 21 Provincial Health Authorities that have been established throughout the country between 2012 and this year, and Medical Supplies must be made available in the Health System.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the last thing I want to experience, is that all other services are compromised and affected at the expense of Coronavirus or Covid-19.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I must also advice this People's House that the Marape-Steven Government did well in releasing the operational funds for the Health Services in the country from January to this month - August 2020.

The Health Sector was appropriated a budget of K1.7 billion in 2020 and more specifically K303.9 million for the Provincial Health Authorities through the Hospital and Health Functional Grants. From this, K154.7 million which is 51 per cent was released while another K149.2 million is yet to be released for the rest of this year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, having said this, I must also commend the Government for releasing the full funding for the Church and Catholic Health Services up to August 2020. They were appropriated K202.9 million in the 2020 Fiscal Year but were affected with the cash-flows earlier; however, the Government came good last month releasing adequate funding for August 2020 leaving a balance of K70 million for the rest of the year.

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I still feel for Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, that was promoted to play the role of Jiwaka Provincial Hospital but fell short of appropriation this year. I submitted to Cabinet to fund K11 million for their operations for this year.

Having said this, Mr Deputy Speaker, 2020 has been the toughest for the health sector. A development of the National Health Plan 2021 to 2030 has been disrupted, routine programs have been disrupted and our system strengthening programs for the new PHA have been disrupted because of corona virus. But we will surely pickup and learn to live with Covid-19 and also run to deliver our routine service.



Mr Deputy Speaker, from the outset, I stand and apologise to everyone for having all your plans and programs being disrupted and also the economy was disrupted but the health sector in PNG didn't cause the problem, yet all of us has been severely affected. From the bottom of my heart I commend the Marape-Steven government for the sound leadership seeking the wisdom of God during one of the toughest times we were able to sail through the storm thus far and I have every confidence in our Government to take us through these challenging times.

Mr Deputy Speaker, finally but not the least I commend the health workers, the PNG Royal Constabulary, Defence Force, Ports Corporation, Airports Corporation, Provincial Governments, Members, the central and line agencies of Government and everyone in PNG for your support in putting up with the Government over the last eight months to address the Covid-19 challenge, to the Controller and his deputy and all those who were working behind the scene, let me commend you all and thank you on behalf of the people of PNG.

To God be all the glory.

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

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

Debate adjourned.

#### **MOTION BY LEAVE**

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

Leave granted.

**SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY –  
DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That Mr Richard Masere be discharged from attendance as Member of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery, and Mr Allan Bird be appointed Member of the Committee.

**MOTION BY LEAVE**

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

Leave granted.

**SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY –  
AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

That the Terms of Reference of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery be amended as follows:

- (1) In item No.2, omit the figure 8 and 3 and substitute with 9 and 4 respectfully;
- (2) Insert an additional term of reference as follows: (11) The Committee shall have powers to use and apply information evidence or documents gathered evidence by the previous Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.

**MOTION BY LEAVE**

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

Leave granted.

**SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND SERVICE DELIVERY –  
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER**

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

That Mr Elias Kapavore be appointed member of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.

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**Mr RAINBO PAITA** (Finschhafen-Minister for Finance and Rural Development) –  
Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank all members for sitting right through this session. There were various papers that we presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1:40 p.m.