

SEVENTH DAY

Friday 4 September 2020

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

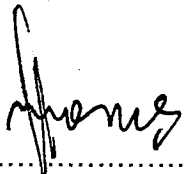
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Mr Harry Momos

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SEVENTH DAY

Friday 4 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 11.05 a.m., and invited the Governor of Manus, **Honourable Charlie Benjamin**, to say Prayers:

‘Dispela monin, mipela olgeta Members kam hia long Parliament lo deliberate on important matters lo kantri bilong mipela.

Mipela ino gutpla man, mipela gat planti rong insait long laif blo mipela na fall short long glory bilong yu. But this morning mi askim olsem yu lusim rong bilong mipela; karamapim mipela wantaim blut blo Jisas long diwai kros na karamapim mipela wantaim robe of righteousness na wanem sumting mipela i askim bai yu harim mipela. As mipela deliberate long important matters of the kantri, mipela I askim yu long givim wisdom, knowledge na understanding.

Mipela beten tete especially long Prime Minister bilong mipela husait em i lidim kantri blo yumi. Mipela beten dat yu givim special wisdom, knowledge na understanding so dat em ken lidim mipela long rot wer yu laikim. Tu, stap wantaim Oposisen Lida na sapos em laik toktok long ol samting blo kantri, larim ol arguments blo em i gutpla o ken kamap long kantri blo yumi.

Papa mipela beten olsem yu stap wantaim mipela tete na bai mipela olgeta tokaut long Lord’s Prayer, Amen!’

QUESTIONS

Covid-19 Effects on Economy

Mr JOE SUNGI – Thank you, Mr Deputy. My question is directed to the Treasurer. There has been so much assumption and speculation about the Covid-19 effects on the country's economy.

So, can you give a brief overview on the economy and an update of the actual effect of Covid-19 on the general economy of Papua New Guinea?

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the youthful Member for Nuku for asking this short but very relevant question on the economy and impacts of Covid-19.

02/07

On our economy and the impact of covid-19 on it, I'll be tabling a very detailed and comprehensive report during this meeting of Parliament; the MYEFO report it will provide further detailed there.

But suffice to say, Mr Deputy Speaker all of us have witnessess, and experienced the negative impact of Covid-19 on our economy and it's been pretty bad. The impacts of Covid-19 has reached into both the resource and non-resource sectors, in the non-resources sector where over 90 per cent of our businesses operate, and 90 per cent of our people are employed, it has been pretty bad. The two worse hit sectors have been the transport and storage as well as accommodation and food retail sectors.

To really appreciate the negative impacts of Covid-19 on our economy, Mr Deputy Speaker, I think it would be best if we could have a look at our 2020 Budget and, use that as a reference point. If the and Member of Parliament can recall, when we passed our budget we had forecast nominal GDP, that is GDP not taking into account inflation to grow up to K92 billion. As of the latest result from our MYEFO exercise, that nominal GDP estimate was revised down to K81 billion. So, that's a drop of about K10 to K11 billion and that is quite massive.

If we look deeper into the breakup of this particular K10 to K11 billion drop in our GDP, we'll see that the oil and gas extraction sectors that were forecasted to drop by K15 billion this year has dropped down to about K11 billion. A drop of about K4.5 billion, representing a nearly 28 per cent drop.

For the mining and quarrying sectors, we forecasted that to grow by up to K10.5 billion this year and that's now forecast to drop down to K8 billion or a drop of K2.5 billion, representing a 20-25 per cent drop. So the resources sector accounts for a little bit over half the drop in GDP.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, that gives us an idea on the impacts of Covid-19 on our economy. If it is any consolation we compare the performance of the effects on Covid-19 on the PNG Economy compared to the rest of the world, we seem to be doing okay. For example, the IMF global forecast for June this year, taking into account economies of the 128 countries that they administer, they are forecasting real GDP taking into account inflation, will drop to 4.9 per cent this year. And that's down from their January forecast of positive 2.5 per cent.

03/07

So going back to the June forecast, the global forecast of negative 4.9 percent. Compare that to Papua New Guinea, Mr Deputy Speaker, members will recall for this year's budget we had forecast the real GDP to grow by two percent. This year as a result of Covid-19, that is now being revised down to negative three percent.

So, if it is a consolation where the impacts of Covid-19 on the world's economy, it is about half as bad in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. While I appreciate the eloquent explanation by the Treasurer on what has happened since the pandemic; the Coronavirus, we also acknowledge that the state of economy of our country is in a very bad state.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we continue to blame the Covid-19 or the Corona Virus pandemic. This Government has borrowed more money than any other government in the history of our country. The massive borrowing by this Government, Mr Deputy Speaker, is one of the contributing factors, because there is nothing to show for on the ground of the money that they have borrowed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is not on that, it is actually on the audit of the Covid-19 funds. The Police Minister becomes the auditor and scientist as promised when the issue of

the first K23 million was raised that, he was going to produce the audit report within 14 days. That 14 days has now turned into months.

Mr Jelta Wong – Point of Order! Thank you, Deputy Speaker. That audit report was tabled here in Parliament in the last session when I did my statement. It has already been tabled in Parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I will allow the leader to go ahead and ask the question if the Minister can respond on what you have said. The Minister can respond to the Opposition Leader on what has been tabled here in Parliament

I will allow the Opposition Leader to continue on his question, but not to make comments.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have not sighted any audited report. So, I do not know what the Health Minister is talking about. All I know is that every time I stand up, the Police Minister and himself seem to be jumping up and down.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you need to send the Sergeant-At-Arms to check under those two seats if there is a Sepik carving under it.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Leader, you have to ask your question.

Covid-19 Audit Report

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Treasurer tell the Parliament, where the audited report of the K23 million is?

Mr IAN LING-STUCKY – I would like to thank the Member for Vanimo-Green and Opposition Leader for his question. I thank him for his new title, but that has not affected how confused he is with his question.

Mr Bryan Kramer – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker. I think there is an issue with the appointment of the Opposition Leader. As I raised it in the Chamber yesterday, I understand that there was a meeting for the Opposition to reaffirm the Member for Vanimo-Green, but it

is important to note for the record that you cannot reaffirm someone who was never appointed in the first place.

So, can you clarify that if, the appointment –

04/07

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Let me interject by saying your point of order is out of order. I will not entertain your explanation because the Speaker, made a statement already.

The question is related to a different matter so, I will allow the Minister to respond to the question.

Thank you.

Mr IAN LING STUCKY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the Opposition Leader for his question, but I think he is a bit confused with the role of the Treasurer and what was assured to this Parliament by Ministers for Health and Police.

In relation to his question of audit, and to give the first breakup of K23 million that was given out, just for the record of this Parliament, total funds that have been warranted to the Department of Health as part of our Covid-19 response, the Cabinet's first decision to endorse and approve K45.3 million was the first ever response from Marape-Steven Government and in addition, another K30 million was also warranted to the Department of Health. If you can see there, a total of K76 million.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will allow the Minister for Health to respond to that at another time. But at this point I can respond to the Opposition Leader by advising him that in addition to the K76 million there was a further K40 million.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not talking about the figures. My question is about how K23 million was spent and please get to the point rather than beat around the bush. Let's talk about the K23 million.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr IAN LING STUCKY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Treasurer doesn't administer those funds and I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition is not aware of that. I like to give advice perhaps, he should direct his questions to the appropriate portfolio that administers those funds.

Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker for the recognition. I want to direct my question to the Minister for Health.

My question relates to the ministerial statement that was delivered yesterday and specifically regarding the treatment guidelines. In the statement presented yesterday, you have provided the general guideline of the Covid-19 pandemic

In the report, there are about 360 confirmed cases to date, many people are infected, not only in NCDC but throughout the country.

We have heard news from medical professionals and the World Health Organisation that there is no cure for Covid-19 pandemic. But, when our people were infected and sent to Port Moresby General Hospital and Rita Flyn, we heard that many of them recovered.

Therefore, the general public are still confused because there is no vaccine available for cure. My question specifically relates to the treatment guideline that were prescribed by the doctors to Covid-19 patients admitted in the hospital.

(1) What are the specific treatment administered to our patients? Please inform this House so, that people will know.

05/07

My second question is in relation to the use of Chloroquine to test Covid-19.

Doctors in other countries have mentioned that Chloroquine or Hydroxy chloroquine can cure Covid-19. In America, the President, Donald Trump announced in the media recommending Hydroxy chloroquine or Chloroquine stating that his doctor allowed him to take the medicine for treatment and prevention of Covid-19.

However, the World Health Organization said they have a different view on that. If the President of America, the leader of a powerful country recommends it, then there must be some truth to come out and announce that Hydroxy chloroquine is the medicine to cure Covid-19.

So, my question to the Minister are as follows:

(1) If we develop a treatment guideline for the Covid-19 patients admitted to the hospitals, will our doctors in the country consider using Chloroquine or Hydroxy chloroquine to treat patients? I am saying this because if they are talking about Chloroquine, then it is not new to us in PNG. We have used it as a treatment for Malaria for the last 60 years. Furthermore, Chloroquine is easily available to us and it is not expensive.

There is no medicine for Covid-19 but they mentioned ventilators and it is very expensive to buy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER — Honourable Member, you get to your question.

Covid-19 Treatment Guidelines

Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA — Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am coming to my question. If our doctors can seriously look into Chloroquine or Hydroxy chloroquine and prescribe it like preventive medication or even treatment. I think it will reduce some Covid-19 cases and there will be less preventive measures like curfew and life can go normal.

(2) What treatment guidelines does the Health Ministry follow at the hospitals? Can we administer this Hydroxy chloroquine as part of the treatment for Covid-19?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JELTA WONG — Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Komo-Margarima for his questions. Yes, we have a treatment plan in place at the Rita Flynn. It is sanctioned by the World Health Organization as well as the PNG's own MISAC team which is made up of the most brilliant minds we have in the medical field in Papua New Guinea. It's very complex treatment plan which I can put together and summarize and send it to all the Members of Parliament so that you can disseminate it to your districts.

For the Hydroxy chloroquine, yes, around the world, people are saying that Hydroxy chloroquine is working but as I've said, we have our MISAC team which is made up of the best minds in our medical team and they are doing a trial at the moment under Dr Tau and Dr Boko so we don't have any results yet. As soon as those results come out we will make it public.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Supplementary Question

National Health Plan

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE — Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My supplementary question to the Health Minister is in relation to his statement made yesterday in saying that the figures of Covid-19 and the documentation of the new National Health Plan 2021-2030 has been disrupted or has been put on hold.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have three more months to complete the current National Health Plan that is 2011-2020. We are nearing the end of this year and it is very important that

the next ten years becomes very critical, considering the Covid-19 and other emerging health issues affecting our country.

When I was a Minister for Health, I knew the priorities, the summaries, the KRAs that were put together to establish the new health plan and there are timeframes to have this health plan by July this year.

06/07

Can the Minister confirm to the country, when do we expect the new health plan to be in place?

We have three months to go and many stakeholders are supporting this health plan.

Mr JELTA WONG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the good Member for Pomio for his question. As you know we have to pull resources from the Department of Health to work on Covid-19 issue, because when coronavirus first started we didn't know anything about it. So we needed all our resources to work on it and it was postponed at that time but I will consult the Department of Health and see if we can complete it within the remaining three months. The foreign advisers that helped with the plan have left the country and we only have the national experts working on it; however, we also need expertise from outside as well for the benefit of our country. Therefore, we don't want to rush into it and make mistakes.

Clarification on Porgera Mine Issue

Mr SALIO WAIPO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to direct my questions to the Prime Minister. I just want clarification on the Porgera issue because I share my border with Enga Province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in today's *Post Courier* the former Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill, mentioned and I quote, 'Kumul Mineral was a company, he started. And it has no capacity and it is broke'.

(1) Can you confirm this whether it is true or not?

(2) Who is the trustee of the Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited and what plans are in place for Porgera?

There are allegations that landowners will be consulted.

(3) If it is so, when will the landowners be consulted?

(4) Has Barrick fulfilled all the obligations in the last contract since 1989 to 2019?

Mr JAMES MARAPE—Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me appreciate the excellent questions from the Member for Angoram.

His first question is in relation to Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited and he quoted the statement made by the Member for Ialibu-Pangia, stating in today's *Post Courier* that he formed the Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited and he has clear understanding on the state of this company. And that this company doesn't have any capacity.

I am glad he made this comment and he is correct in saying that, but as part of correcting some of the bad decisions made during his time which we all were part of it at that time, we are now going through it by cleaning it

Mr Peter O'Neill – Point of Order! I don't mean to continuously interrupt but let's put facts out there. I know the Member for Angoram's questions are relevant and the daily newspaper, the *Post Courier* has just taken one line to highlight the issue. But the explanation that I gave was that, Kumul Minerals Holdings Limited technically does not have the financial capacity to undertake operation like Porgera because of past investments in Tolokuma Nautilus mining, which has drained most of the financial capacity of that particular institution.

07/07

Those decisions were not necessarily not done by our Government but it was an opportunity for State-Owned Enterprise to operate a mine. And it was not capable of doing so.

Mr Deputy Speaker, ask the Prime Minister to answer it with facts and not try and allude to the fact and play the blame game that he continues to carry on.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Member for Ialibu-Pangia and Members of the House, I will allow the Prime Minister to go ahead answer the question. In any regard to a Point of Order! I do not want you to make a big statement and debate on what the Point of Order raised. We have Grievance Debate after this if you want to debate more on that, I can give you an opportunity during Grievance Debate to do so. I will ask the Prime Minister to go ahead and give his response.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I will not take up too much time, I will try to stick to the facts. And the facts remain that Kumul Mineral Holdings in April 2014, invested in Nautilus, it was a classical error or blunder that KMH took under instruments of Government. The Government through NEC at that time chose to invest 100 per cent in the Solwara 1 Project.

Nautilus did not put any money up front, it is part of the legacy of clean up that we are doing today. The smart accountants have several ways in which they can cover up so much in the books. In the case of Kumul Mineral Holdings, it was a good initiative of the former Government and under the leadership of the former Prime Minister to set it up. But we have ourselves contributed to the Kumul Petroleum as it is today.

Not to play blame games but to use facts, we need to look retrospectively as to how we have come, so we correct our way forward. It is not for us to blame anyone. We are speaking facts and taking corrective actions. For instance; the K375 million loan obtained from BSP (\$120 million) to invest in that business. Not many countries in the world are investing in deep sea mining, but the government took out a loan to do that and Nautilus did not invest any money.

I accept the blame because I was in that Cabinet too. We invested in this and from the statement by the former Prime Minister, he is correct to say that KMH has a lot of rubbish that we are slowly cleaning up. The government has taken on the responsibility and we have transferred this loan (K375 million) into the Treasury books. This is in order for us to clean up Kumul Mining, so that it stays clean and ready to serve its purpose in operating Ok Tedi and Porgera.

I am saddened to note that there are some educated Papua New Guinean leaders who still doubt about our ability to use our own gold to finance and operate our mines. Shame on us. We need to get out of the mentality of working for the companies.

08/07

Without naming names there is no shame in questioning the capacity of your own engineers, accountants, mining specialists.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when the Coronavirus came in to the country, the foreign workers did not come and help run Lihir and Porgera for the last three months, since March. About 99 per cent of these mining sites were being run by nationals until the lease expired and until 24 April, when we announced the end of the lease.

So, we are cleaning the mess created by the governments of the past to ensure that Kumul Mineral Holding Limited and the subsidiary below it that will run Porgera. I want to clarify to the country that under Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited there will be subsidiary companies that will run Lihir and Porgera respectively. Just like the former government loaned K375 million from BSP to invest in Deep Sea Mining which has never eventuated and we are still being charged the interest. We could also go to BSP and report that there was a failure in the

project in Porgera instead of digging something from the Ocean that we were not sure of. We have given the foreigners 30 years to make their own money from our resources while we are still crediting to run our Budget.

I can simply get a loan from BSP, based on how much gold we have. We have over K1 billion worth of gold lying up at Porgera, which is ready for harvest every year but we turn to go and loan? Member for Vanimo-Green.

Where do you think the K7 million which was transferred to Vanimo-Green District, came from?

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! I do not know why but the Prime Minister should ask his question through the Speaker.

Vanimo-Green is not the subject of the question being asked but it must very sweet on your lips.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Opposition Leader, your point of order, is out of order. Can you let the Prime Minister continue?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Mr Speaker, the Opposition Leader and Member of Vanimo-Green is my brother so I feel that I have the right to use Vanimo-Green as an example and he can also use Tari-Pori too as an example.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr JAMES MARAPE – So, Mr Speaker, I am just using Vanimo-Green as an example.

This year we have already transferred K7 million into Vanimo-Green and all the other districts so where do you think the money came from?

You are asking to build infrastructure and invest in agriculture but where will we get the money from? You want to go and obtain loans again.

(Members uproar in the Chamber)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Order! Allow the Opposition Leader, to express his point of order.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! I place on record that Vanimo-Green only received K3 million so the Prime Minister, should not be telling lies of the Floor because he has been telling lies all his life.

(Members uproar in the Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Order! Honourable Members, it is not good that we are shouting at each other so I will let the Prime Minister to explain his point of order.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take into consideration his words whether it be K3 million, K5 million or K7 million, I will have to confirm with the Treasurer but at least he confirmed that he already received K3 million.

09/07

At least he has confirmed that K3million has arrived already. That is the point.

(Mr Belden Namah interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Opposition Leader the Prime Minister has already confirmed it.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – He said I am a liar and I understand, He used to call the former Prime Minister a pathological liar. That is his catch phrase. They are now friends.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Prime Minister, you should get straight to the point.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I am sorry to drag on. We have cleaned Kumul Minerals Limited. The sole trustee of the two Kumul companies is the person holding the position of Prime Minister but the companies have their own boards. Very soon we are going to announce

the full board of Kumul Mineral Holdings. The subsidiary of that is the Enga Provincial Government, Landowners and very soon we will sit down and engage with our landowners.

Porgera is not a new field. I want to make this clear to the electronic and print media, the print media must also write unbiasedly and not write a lot of stories from the Opposition side. Otherwise we will use Facebook to promote our agenda.

All landowners will be consulted, Porgera is not a new field and James Marape is not going to bring people from Tari, even if they are from the same ancestors, he will not settle them in Porgera. We will not bring people from Laiagam or Kandep over to Porgera. You are there already. Nobody will take your place. You are now getting only 2.5 per cent equity, is Barrick your ancestor? I share common ancestry with you and I talking now. I am here to give you what you are entitle to. What you rightfully deserve. You will get back what is yours. Do not talk a lot and go, we will come and talk to you next week. If the government of the former Prime Minister can give Ok Tedi 17.5 per cent to the landowners then who am I? I am talking to my Ipili people up in the mountains.

Talk with a view for tomorrow and do not worry about today only. We will come and consult with you landowners because this leads to the Member's fourth. The land owners have asked, they came and dug gold up on the mountain where the fathers, mothers and people are living, whether it be Placer Dome from 1989 to 2006 or Barrick from 2006 to 2019 did they fulfil one key issue? Relocation. Did they do? No, they didn't. Your own company, Kumul Mineral Holdings and the subsidiary which you own will do it.

I am giving some insights. Landowners know that there are legacy issues. And the process of SML is not decided by James Marape in Cabinet. It is what the Mining Advisory Council and MRA control at a lower level.

So, talk with the heart for the future of the country and not with our own individual interests.

I am happy with that question. I wish to give clarity that we will clean up Kumul Mineral Holdings, prepare it to stand alone as a strong company to run Porgera into the future and give more benefits back to the landowners, the country and the Enga Provincial Government.

So, this remarks come clear and I want the landowners to take it. They have a right to carry their petition all over the country but we are also here to receive their views.

Supplementary Question

Porgera Mine SML

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, My supplementary is in relation to Porgera Mine.

While I appreciate the Government's effort for us to have a major benefit of the resource, this I fully support, my supplementary is in relation to the process that is outlined by the laws of our country.

10/07

I would like to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, prior to KMHL being issued the Special Mining Lease (SML).

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are;

- (1) Did KMHL have the exploration license over the Porgera Mine after it expired?
 - (2) Was there a mine warden hearing conducted in Porgera, prior to the issuance of the SML to KMHL?
 - (3) Was there an environmental impact study done, prior to the issuance of SML to KMHL?
 - (4) Was KMHL ever issued the environmental permit, prior to the issuance of the SML?
- Mr Deputy Speaker, if not then I am seeing us taking a short cut from Tari to Porgera and not following the real road from Tari to Kandep to Porgera.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Sam Akoitai – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, this week there was a precedent set to extending the Question Time under Point of Order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Motion (by **Mr Sam Akoitai**) put –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent time for questions this day be extended by 20 minutes.

Motion Negatived.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I would like to respond by saying that the court has done its ruling already. I am not a better judge to decide whether, we follow the law or not.

The court did its ruling in supporting us and I am surprised that my brother on the other side is speaking as if he is an advocate for companies. We must sometimes serve the nationals interest before us.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! I am not an advocate for any company. I am speaking in the interest of the law, processes and procedures laid out in this country.

So answer the question, did you follow the law or not?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Parliament is here to pass laws, laws for today and laws from the past. It is the same as in 2011, when we passed laws to preserve the illegal governments here on this Floor of Parliament.

These law we are debating over is not meant to preserve an illegal government. We have done amendments to the *Mining Act* and we will still change laws into the future if need be to preserve the countries interest. We will rule the line. Whoever wants to put the nation's interest ahead will join us and whoever does not want to serve the interest of our nation will go against us.

But so far, we have adhered to all the laws of the land and of our country for us to obtain this license.

So whoever believes that we have breached the law, including the investors, you have every right to bring your case to court. The Opposition Leader also has every right to do so.

I would like to give my assurance to this nation, we are not here to breach the laws of this country if there is a need to correct law, to the investors, I fear not to correct the laws for the betterment of our country.

11/07

In the case of Porgera, they have harvested and enough environmental damage has been done. The Member for Central Bougainville can concur with me, did they come back to fix Panguna, they didn't.

They will not come back and fix the legacies that we will live with it in our country. So, in the sunset of these resources, the people of this country deserve a fair go. So, I can change law after law to secure the interest of this country and into the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as far as the existing law is concerned, we are following the due process of the law. If you feel that we not following the due process then go the court and find out.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I want to remind the House that every time on Friday when it comes to Grievance Debate, I saw many members of Parliament walking out of the Chamber and leaving few members attending to important points that has been raised during the Grievance Debate.

I want the ministers to take this important time and listen to grievances raised by your colleague members. Especially, the Ministers, I want you to remain faithful in your seats and listen to the grievances raised by the Members. Because many of their grievances will be raised through your departments.

I want to inform the House on this matter and Grievance Debate is now open.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That Grievances be noted.

Illegal Foreign Workers

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My grievance debate will be brief.

But, I want to also thank you for making the point that is important. Especially, the ministers to remain during grievance debate so they can take note of the grievances raised by Members of Parliament and they can act upon those grievances and take necessary measures.

My grievance debate is in relation to foreign employment in Papua New Guinea. I would like the Minister for Labour, Immigration and Police to take note. Under section 6 (1) the *Foreign Employment Act*, the fine for companies that employ foreigners illegally is K20,000, section 6 (2), it's K10,000 for the individual. So, that's a the total of K30,000

Recently, in Northern Province a series of raid inspections and audit carried out into logging companies revealed 44 foreigners working there unlawfully. If we imposed the fine, we would collect K1.32 million under the labour laws.

We would also collect further fines due to the fact that none of those workers fulfilled the criteria for working in Papua New Guinea. The most important criteria being proficiency in English.

Not only in Northern Province, but throughout Papua New Guinea, we have instances like this, I mean just here in Boroko. Just go to Boroko and inspect number of shops and companies, I guarantee you, you will find people unlawfully employed in this country and in breach of the laws.

And in such times like this, when this country really needs revenue. The Labour Department must get its act together and start conducting audits, inspections and imposing the fines.

Once this person has been fined and prosecuted they are not supposed to be in this country.

12/07

Once these persons have been fined, prosecuted, etcetera, they are not supposed to be in this country. They are supposed to be declared persona non grata and should be deported but that doesn't happen. Often times we complain about these types of situations but the answers are within us.

The relevant government agencies that are responsible for carrying out these activities are simply not doing their jobs. If we talk about capacity, the fact of the matter is, I believe that the Labour Department has a trust fund where all of these fines and types of revenues collected by their audits and inspections are placed, and they can utilize it for other operations.

They should start by inspecting all the logging camps throughout Papua New Guinea. You count the number of logging camps and multiply that by K1 million, on average, about K300 million is sitting there for you to collect.

And those persons should be immediately blacklisted from entering PNG. Their names should be listed on the Immigration database to prohibit them from entering this country. And those companies should also be heavily fined and even deregistered. When you do this, these people will start paying attention to our laws and it will be a significant deterrent factor so that they won't come and break these laws.

You must think of our country as your house. You must guard your gates and your doors so that the people who enter your house are screened properly to ensure that they are the right people coming to your house. You will not allow criminals, rapists and murders to enter your house so why do we let this type of people to keep coming back into this country.

We can't complain that there's no law. No, the laws and fines are there. We've talked about capacity, this is Port Moresby, the head quarter of Labour Department.

For example, I would suggest that every Friday the Minister should talk to his Secretary to get teams of Labour officers out of their office and conduct inspections and audits, and start searching these cases. These are very simple cases.

And then there should be a steady stream of deportation of these people who are illegally in this country. You are freeing up jobs that Papua New Guineans can take. Every year around 60, 000 Papua New Guinean graduates leave our educational institutions to compete for only 10,000 jobs. This is because many of these jobs are taken up by these foreigners. I have seen bus drivers, receptionist, and many other jobs that an ordinary Papua New Guineans can do being performed by these foreigners who are unlawfully employed in this country. Since they are unlawfully employed, they are not paying any government tax.

Therefore, this is another revenue stream which you can contact your sister organisation, the Internal Revenue Commission to do a joint task force inspection and they can also collect fines under the *Income Tax Act*.

We are looking for money, when money is staring in our face. By doing this, these organizations that come into Papua New Guinea and those that know our laws well yet do whatever they want, will pay attention. You will improve compliance. We have to respect our own laws, our own country and our own people to enforce these laws.

I want to know whether these 44 workers are fined K10,000, if so, you collect K440,000. You should keep the K40,000 and send the K400,000 to Northern Province. And then you fine the companies K880,000 using the same formula, and after that you blacklist these guys. Get your action officers to ensure that the names of those people are submitted to Migration Office so that they can be blacklisted to enter our country again. Then you continue on to their companies informing them of their repeated offence and deregister their company so they can pack-up and leave. If they can't pay their fines, cease all their equipment and auction it. These are things that can be done.

I want to commend our Migration Minister who has been very active since he took office. He is showing the way. He is saying that it can be done and he is doing it and he takes an active role. This man stays and works in his office from 7:45 a.m., until afternoon. When we send him a request, he responds immediately, all ministers, please take note.

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All ministers please take note and that's how it should be and he makes sure that his operational officers are working. There was one instances, when we needed an extension for two days, I contacted him and he approved on the same day. He is showing the country that, yes, people in this House perform. The Minister for Labour must do the same, likewise to Minister responsible for IRC, customs and tax.

(Members interjecting)

Mr GARY JUFFA – No, Minister for Police is doing fine, to me anywhere, but if you have any grievances you can take it up with him. My Province is doing fine.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor, you only have two minutes left.

Mr GARY JUFFA – Thank you, I am responding to some of my seniors who have issues. But let me return back to our House that we must protect with great patriotic fervors and vigor enforce our laws. We can't just let anybody and everyone come to this country must screen them carefully. They will come and interact with our women, children, village people, urban people, rural folks, ourselves and our companies. We must know whether they are coming through the right process by the front door, not the back door, roof or under the ground. I would like the Minister for Labour to present a report to us that these 44 personnel have been charged, their companies fined that they are black listed and never to be allowed back into this country, thank you very much.

Review Electoral Boundaries

Mr CHARLES ABEL (Alotau) – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. I was trying to ask a question to the Prime Minister but I wasn't given the opportunity and so I will convert it into a grievances debate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it relates to a very important mechanism in our *Constitution*, that's a mechanism where our electoral boundaries throughout the country are meant to be reviewed and the report brought to Parliament every 10 years, by a body called the Boundaries Commission.

Unfortunately, since 1977, there has been two Boundaries Commission Reports presented to Parliament and in both instances, they have been rejected by the Parliament. Now

Parliament doesn't have the powers by *Constitution* to amend those reports but can only reject or accept them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, part of the process is the fact that, we try and do a whole sale review of the whole country at one time. For example, in the last Boundaries Commissions report, it recommended 26 new open electorates to Parliament. Not only that this report tends to come late so what happened was that Parliament tried to absorb this wholesale changes. Many of the Members of Parliament are concerned about the electoral implications in the coming election and the tendency has been to reject the report.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we all know that throughout the country today because of the passage of times since Independence, the rapid growth in the population and migration which contributes to expansion of some electorates in this country compared to other electorates.

In fact, today many electorates accommodate five times the population than other electorates. Not only the population, but in terms of landmass, its bigger resulting in under representation in Parliament and unfairness in the distribution of funding like DSIP for those electorates. When you have the flat appropriation, which was discussed in Parliament many times; you can have flat appropriation of K10 million to every single electorate on a flat basis knowing fully well the circumstances in those districts are quite different.

Mr Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is that in order to address this issue to make sure that we do have a review and adjust to some of these boundaries especially for electorates that are much bigger. We need to bring to Parliament a regulation to clarify the terms of reference where by the Boundaries Commission operates under so that it's not a wholesale review for every single boundary in PNG but doing in a stage manner.

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And so, in the first instance we need to make sure and I believe there is already a Boundaries Commission is funded and we need to bring in as quick as possible in the next session of Parliament, a clear term of reference, so that maybe 5-10 electorates can be added to the current stock of electorates.

Constitutionally, right now we can have 110 -120 electorates, so we need to limit the scope of the Commission because, time is limited and we run the risk of having an expensive comprehensive boundaries review. And it comes to Parliament only to be rejected again.

I was hoping to get a direct answer from Prime Minister that we commit this government to bring in as soon as possible a limited scope that specifies that we only bring 5-10 and we base it on very clear criteria.

The obvious criteria are population and geographical area and you make it very clear that those electorates who are in the top 10 or the top 20 in terms of population and in terms of area, qualify for being split or having their boundaries adjusted. We make it clear because of the time and cost factor. The other thing also is that we should capture a number of electorates in the country as well.

We should address the ones that are very obviously different, we provide a cap because logically we cannot keep adding the number of leaders on the Floor of this House into the future. It will not add to the quality of governance, it will just crowd this area. I am seeking from this government that we refund the process, bring in a Terms of Reference and we can use the opportunity to address under this TOR, the inclusion of women in Parliament. There are no women on the Floor of this Parliament and the issue is running red hot at the moment.

We had our Gender Based Violence Committee with our interim Chairman, Governor Powes Parkop, yesterday to make a coalition and to look at some of these factors; the empowerment of women and some of these obvious features that women are not participating in forums like this. These are some of the important forums of Parliament. We need to make special interventions to allow that and I think the Boundaries Commission and the Prime Minister has spoken about, that we should be looking at creating four reserves seats for women in Parliament on a regional basis for a temporal period.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would suggest three terms of Parliament to allow women to stand for women to make sure and guarantee that women can come to this Floor and demonstrate the ability to lead. We must be one of the fewest countries in the world that does not have women represented on the Floor of Parliament. And if we talk about gender-based violence and women's empowerment issues, this I believe is one of the critical factors. We need to create opportunities to make sure women are on this Floor of Parliament. Maybe after some time then they can go through the process like the rest of us but through the history and practices as demonstrated there are obvious cultural and other impediments that stop women from coming into Parliament.

I make these points as the elections are approaching and we need to take every opportunity to address some of the unfairness and inequities relating to our boundaries. We then put 5-10 additional electorates and cap them and future boundaries commission should just look at just moving the boundaries themselves. Not adding on more Members into parliament but as the population changes, you can shift the boundaries to retain the equality between the electorates.

For now, we need 5-10 new electorates, because there are some very obvious ones where they are much bigger and those leaders and those people are unfairly burdened when it comes to funding and representation in Parliament.

Mr MEHRRA KIPEFA (Obura-Wonenara) – I just like to air out some of the grievances that others have brought forth. My grievance will be about the new system that is taking place in Finance Department. That is about IFMS system, I understand there are some districts have had their roll out program and some are yet to tap into that program. We have a few discrepancies about those systems, unlike the Papua New Guinea Accounting System. The PGAS we had the commitment ledgers that have been committed into the system that itemize all different items as per our budget. but the IFMS system has encapsulate all in one as per the sectors.

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And that brings about how we control the spending and how we give our authority to our Section 32 Officers, to do drawdowns for each project. So, this is one of the technicality of the IFM assistance that we as the Chairman of the DDA's have no control over the money or total control over the system, as I may say. That system has a bit of fix-up to here all our drawdowns and the expenditure be approved and verified by the Chairman otherwise the Public Service under the Section 32 Officers will be on a spending spree so this one thing we found with the new system.

I believe during the week, a question was raised to the Minister for Communication to link up the system. I think we will not be able to trust the Digicel Network because everything is loaded into their bandwidth and is squashed to run your cheques. If you are sending your cheques electronically –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, may I interrupt.

Honourable Member for Usino-Bundi, when you, have a colleague Members speaking please, do not walk past them.

Thank you.

Mr MEHRRA KIPEFA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the in-house rules.

When the Treasury Officers sends the cheques down, we have a crowd and long queue for the Department of Finance, here in Waigani to accept the cheque. All our projects come to

a halt, or can be late, even some come to an end, if the Finance Officer who picks the cheque lives in Gerehu and comes in late then we all have to wait in a queue.

This is one of the things that delay our development. We may plan on so many things but the practicality of how the money flows to bring about the reality of the projects that matter.

So, in this time that we are moving into addressing the finance to our districts, the systems that we are transiting from are different, I see that the PGAS systems has different itemised ledgers that they incorporate into the system that copies out the cheque quickly.

Now, with the IFMS System, as far as compliance is concerned, yes it is very efficient in terms of auditing and the compliance but practically it is not very efficient. If Digicel, has a lot of users on the bandwidth than it requires a Treasury Officers to stay overnight to wait till it is clear to send it and when Officers stay overnight they are being paid them overtime which is just another added cost. The cheque printing alone is one of the things that slows down most of us in delivering services to the districts.

Also, to the DDA chairman's, I do not think you won't be able to see your fund balance because it only comes out in sector and not itemised as per your budget every year because those itemised ledgers will not be shown in IFMS.

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I have asked for it, I want the itemised one as per my budget but it's not showing. Everything is in one basket. If your go to infrastructure, everything is mounted together; your roads, your Bailey bridge, your local roads or culverts, whatever is in relation to infrastructure. It won't show that.

So, I believe that the Minister should sit down with his staff and look at some of those technicalities and bring us to light on some of the things so we know exactly where the money is been spent and on what projects. Otherwise we will all name it broadly as infrastructure, education, health or others and we don't know for sure. So, these are some of the technicalities that have to be fixed in the system.

I am for the IFMS but the nitty gritty of the itemised ledgers has to be shown on the system also, so we will be able to know exactly where the money has been spent.

The other thing is, if your DFM and your CEO is contesting against you in the next election, you better watch out.

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA (Gulf) – My issue is very simple. I want to just talk about boundaries and take the discussion a bit further from where the honourable Member for Alotau left off.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have boundaries that are defined in our land by ILGs, then we have administrative and political boundaries in wards, in councils, in districts and in provinces. Across these boundaries we have problems. We have problems because racially or ethnically some of our people are split in more than one way. For example, the Anga People in the highlands of Gulf, Eastern Highlands and Morobe are one group but they are split between three provinces.

The Waems in my province, the majority are in Gulf Province but some live as far up the Purari River as Karimui and others go up into Eastern Highlands. It is the same for all other provinces. So, what do we do?

This is my suggestion, the Electoral Boundaries Commission should be given more teeth and be given more permanency so that it continuously works as an authoritative body, just like the Electoral Commission.

When disputes on boundaries arise, it is there to determine those boundaries, even to the extent of our international waters like the ownership over reefs.

We just did the Oceans Policy this week. So, in my view it is about time that I recommend to the National Government through the Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister to look at reviewing the National Boundaries Commission. This is so that we can have a permanent institution and not wait for Parliament to appoint a boundaries commission just to deal with the boundaries for new electorates or wait for the Provincial Government to come to the Minister for Provincial Affairs to deal with the issue of new wards and new councils.

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All these functions in my view, should now be integrated into one permanent institution under an *Organic Law*, similar to the Electoral Commission, so it performs its functions habitually.

In the area of resources right now, for example, we take the case of the PNG LNG Project. The signatory to that agreement to the UBSA and LBSA are the Southern Highlands Provincial Government. Since then, half of that has come from Hela Provincial Government. Even though, mechanisms have been laid out in that agreement for our resolution of the distribution of benefits, this has not eventuated up to today. If we had a commission like the one I am proposing, these issues can be easily resolved.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this week me and my colleague governors of Eastern Highlands and Chimbu, raised questions to the Minister for Petroleum & Energy about two projects of national significance. In the case of Simbu the Lutheran Mission has extended its services into areas around the Elk-Antelope project in my province.

In the case of Eastern Highlands, my colleague raised the issue about his people of Herowana and the relationship that they have with the Powaians who live up the Subu River, which is the tributary of Purari for benefits that they could share. The simple fact is that Elk Antelope PRL 15 is 50 km in the boundary, particularly in the administrative boundary of Gulf Province. But the people, racially and ethnically are related. And I know when the time comes, all these issues will be sorted out in the development forum, but these are issues where you have resources that in some cases cross the boundaries of more than a district or a province. So if you set up such an authority, I believe that all these arguments that we have can easily or be independently resolved.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is pertinent for me to mention that some of the issues which I wanted to speak on were covered by the Member for Obura-Wonenara.

But, I wanted to look at the system and to discuss the system. This touches on some of the recent discussions we have had between the National Government and the provinces, in terms of the relationship between the two. It cascades further down into the relationship between the DDA and also the LLG.

I feel it is something that we as a Parliament need to resolve, Mr Deputy Speaker. We need to resolve it, because in my three years' experience as a Member of Parliament, I found out that there is now a change in the thinking of the people. Our people in the last 20 years have changed the dynamics of their thinking.

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They now think that the Member of Parliament job is to deliver certain services. In essence I feel that the cargo-cult mentality is permeating into Parliament and obstructing the roles of Parliament and mechanism of the government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I think we need to deal with it because if you look at our annual budget and I note today particularly the arguments once again between the former and current

government. In fact, we are still mixture of members here. But, I still see the finger-pointing and it is asking Parliament to look for a revolution.

If we don't the next government comes in we will still be here pointing fingers and the underlying problem will remain unresolved, Mr Deputy Speaker, and this is it.

Because if you look now, the demand coming from the electorate is that; Governor, what school, bridge or road did you build? When they go to the Open Member who are in charge of the DDA's there is the same demand. When I sit in the assembly with the presidents, people are also demanding for service delivery.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my president also wants to set their legacy because of the Governor and Open members are setting their legacies. And to some extent, if you look at the arguments of the previous Prime Minister he also wants to set his legacy. So, there is absolutely no separation of responsibility and we are all competing within a small space to satisfy one person and there is a competition between five groups.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to some instances the departments are also involved in tendering. I saw for instance last year Department of National Planning was tendering roads. When I thought it's the responsibility of Works Department, but I saw it in the newspaper. The National Planning was beginning to do tendering and pretty soon all of us will do it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the system is suffering. For instance, I notice in my province in the last three years there is almost zero enforcement something that Governor for Northern raised.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the reason for that is we all focused on building roads, bridges, classrooms and mechanism of enforcement is suffering, whether it be in law and order or we have heard some of the discussion in terms of gender-based violence and the lack of policing and enforcement.

I think one of the reasons is because we are providing the vehicle and accommodation to the policeman and we are neglecting their duty and function.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I used the example of the buildings in my province when I became governor. Buildings are being built all over the place. But, who was being responsible for the standards?

We've found that the approval came from the town Mayor's Office. We found that this land was public land and supposed to be utilised for public use but were given to some Chinese businessman by the Local Level Government.

There is no enforcement and the question is whose job is it to enforce and protect? We couldn't find that mechanism in the province. That mechanism lies in Lands. So, we try to draw

down the powers so that we could actually do it in the province. Mr Deputy Speaker, it's three years and we are still trying.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I go to the example of April Shalome Red project. The 2 or 3 governments have been trying to do the April Shalome pilot project and it is now taking 15 to 20 years.

The office that manages resides here in Port Moresby. The project lies in the middle of Wosera-Gau, Ambunti-Drekikir, Angoram and Koroba. It's sitting there up in the middle of the bush but the office is here in Moresby.

We in the province are not understanding what is going on with this thing.

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In my view, we should be the one that are implementing it and someone else from Port Moresby can come and audit us. What we are lacking in all of these implementations, Mr Deputy Speaker, is an audit. I have an oil palm project that has been operating in my province for the past 10 years. The Environment Department after giving the license never came and had a look at it and its 10 years now.

The Agriculture Department after they allowed for the FTA had never been to look at it. The people of East Sepik begin to blame governor and the provincial government now. So we had to put together an independent team to go in and do a review in order to do an audit.

This is not allowed for in law. It is not an individual person's job; the provincial government saw that there was a need to do so we had done it. As we did that, I began to realise that all of these things that we are doing has been missing an enforcer.

There was no one for an enforcement and it was National Government's job. But, if we want to fix the system, I think the province needs to pick up the enforcement of a lot of these things.

Firstly, everyone wants to implement and no one is willing to do an enforcement. So, for these responsibilities, if we are going to keep the provinces, there needs to be enforcement.

Secondly, who is doing an audit? All of us are implementing schools, classrooms, bridges, roads and health sectors. Who is doing the Audit? No one is doing the audit.

Finally, Mr Deputy Speaker, performance management. Once our children complete studies, we are not aware of the quality of education they have acquired as an example, so who is measuring the outcomes? It is supposed to be the Department of Planning but, Mr Deputy Speaker, Department of Planning is writing cheques and also doing implementation too. So, who should be doing the performance management? Should we shift it higher or shift it to the Prime Minister's office so that Prime Minister can do the audit in terms of performance?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I believe that all these issues in terms of structure, the person at the top hierarchy has to set up rules and those at the middle go around and check, and those at the bottom must do the implementation.

Right now, we are all doing implementation and that is not working. This is because if you point your fingers at the previous government, they spend about K18 billion and when you check, all the districts and provinces have received money. If you go back to the NA government, they did the same thing. They gave money to everybody, but when you look at the performance, it is not there. Why is it not there? Because nobody is responsible for the performance. Everybody is responsible for an implementation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he can choose some time for us and the Ministers to come and meet and discuss with him and resolve this issue. It's not about pointing fingers at each other and argue but for us to resolve it in order for our departments and provinces to operate well so that our National Government can be praised.

At the moment, we are confused as to who will do what. Therefore, we have to look back at our two leaders, the Prime Minister and his deputy to come and discuss with us about what we should be doing in order for us to perform better so that our people can benefit. And after the benefit, we can measure it and present it on the Floor.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Land-Grabbing – Central Province

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ (Central) — Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I'd like to debate on the land-grabbing that is going on in Central Province, on my people's land and everyone seems to be turning a blind eye to it. Nobody wants to own up with it. There's no control on land-grabbing and I don't like people to keep blaming my people for selling land.

20/07

The State and the relevant government institutions are failing our people where by we have such institutions like the Lands Boards, Physical Planning Board, who should be having measures in place so that we don't have illegal buildings going up and proper planning in place. In addition to that land grabbing, other issues have come up.

One example; is relation to high profile land grabbing, because if the small people are doing it then how can we stop at the top level because there are no proper land management records but only God knows the issues.

My debate is based on a portion of land in Central Province. It is portion 1221 which is the old Ilimo Farm and it's about 199 hectares located in Ilimo at 14 Mile and it's in Koiari Local-level Government, Hiri District of Kairuku-Hiri Electorate in Central Province. Portion 1221 shares the common boundary with Adventure Park and Pacific Adventist University (PAU). The land is part of the old Ilimo estate which Central Provincial Government bought for K12 million from a mortgage in 2002 to 2003.

During the term of former Governor Honourable Alphonse Moroi, titles of the land of old Ilimo Farm including portion 1221 were transferred to the Central Provincial Government on the 8 of March 2012, by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning. Portion 1221 was awarded via a PEC decision in 2013, to a joint venture company to develop the land into a satellite township.

An MOA was signed on the 10 of September 2014, and a joint venture company called Ilimo Satellite Township Development Limited was formed and registered. The title transfer from Central Provincial Government to ISCDL was issued by the Department of Lands on the 10 of July 2015, for three portions; 1220, 1221 and 502 totaling 303 hectares of land. A stamp duty for the transfer for the above land title was paid by ISCDL to the Department of Lands for K1.8 million to effect the transfer of titles and in total K13.8 million paid by the people of Central Province, for these portions of land. The survey and planning was done in 2015, for these three portions of land; 1220,1221 and 502. Subdivision plan was approved and planning permission granted for conversion of the agriculture lease to commercial and industrial lease purposes by the National Physical Planning Board in October 2016, without any issues. This was the first special plan under the declared original planning area and it needs to be noted.

On the 23 March, 2012, to a National Gazette a forfeiture of State lease, notice of portion 1221 was issued by the then Minister. This was for illegal land grabbing. As a delegate of the then Minister, which declared the land as a vacant State land, but it was never vacant at all. This is only 13 days after the titles were awarded to Central Provincial Government from the Bank South Pacific mortgage of the old Ilimo Farm land and properties. It took almost ten years for this mortgage to be released.

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For five years Central province had no knowledge of the forfeiture notice on portion 1221 and its status of being a vacant state land, until Monday September 1, 2020. This is despite major topography, cadastral and physical planning applications and plans regarding the land

submitted and approved by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning and its relevant officers and boards by ISTD.

On Tuesday 28 August 2018, via a National Gazette *notice no. G551*, which is a notice of direct grant by the then former Minister for illegal land-grabbing under *section 72* of the *Land Act*, was awarded to the NCDC by the then Minister and it was for a 99-year lease. Starting on the 24th day of August 2018, at no cost. I think this sounds funny and it was for a purpose of cultural park and a recreational reserve and I wonder who is benefitting from this? This is directly adjacent to the Adventure Park, operated for the same purpose.

In early 2019; the settlers took the matter to Court, challenged NCDC claim over the land, because the settlers knew who the real owners were. The Central Provincial Government has no privy over the matter, nor being served notice and is not a party to these proceedings. On Monday 1st September, 2020, my survey team doing a survey on this portion in accordance with 2016, planning approval by the National physical board over portion 1220, 1221, and 502 when they met a group of NCDC police or enforcement unit, escorted by a mobile squad doing a verbal eviction awareness on the settlers.

Mr Powes Parkop – Point of Order! With due respect to the Governor of Central, these are very serious allegations. I am not sure if this is the proper forum to make it. He can go ahead but I just want to state that there was, according to records, a vacant land and we applied to extend the adventure park and also to build a cultural park, because these are plans that fit into our tourism plan in the city. There is no intention on our part to defraud anyone. And if there is an illegal take-over we are prepared to surrender the title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, you're debating the grievance debate raised by your colleague Governor. Allow him to complete the grievance debate. You have taken a minute of his time so I will give him an extra minute to complete his debate.

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ – Thank you Deputy Speaker. The approach NCDC is taking is treating my people of Central Province like squatter settlers in the city.

Mr Powes Parkop – Point of Order! With due respect, we are not aware of these facts that the Governor is raising now. We are only aware that there is a vacant land and we applied for it. It is not against the people of Central Province and he should withdraw his statement.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – In my understanding as the Chair, this is a grievance debate. And the Honourable Governor of Central is raising his grievance and it cannot be debated. If neither of you are satisfied, there is another way of responding. We cannot debate this on the Floor. Let your colleague Governor complete his debate, thank you.

22/07

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ (Central) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. With the approach that NCDC is taking, does NCD have the jurisdiction to come into the Central Province with their own Police and harasses my people? Is this a show of force or threat to me and my people?

I want the House to know that the city of Port Moresby infringes on land that belongs to the people of Hiri and Koiari. The current issue we are facing now is land-grabbing which has been going on for too long so we want to stop it from happening because it is happening at the highest level.

The good Governor of NCD can't deny this because as of yesterday the NCD Enforcement Police which is made up of Reserve Police were up at 14 Mile accompanied by the Mobile Squad to carry out their eviction notice –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your time has already lapsed and I am giving you another extra two minutes so can you sum up.

I have just been advised that if you have a written speech then you can seek leave to incorporate the rest of your speech into the *Hansard*.

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ (Central) – I seek leave of the Parliament to incorporate the rest of my speech in the *Hansard*.

Leave granted

The rest of the speech reads as follows;

Is it proper for then Minister for illegal land-grabbing to issue State Lease to NCDC via a Direct Grant over Portion 1221 which CPG holds and for the same purpose of his adventure park business? And don't forget this City infringes on Hiri and Koiari land and the people of Hiri need a separate electorate to properly manage these land-grabbing that is going out of

control. With the HIVASO Regional Planning Area declared in Hiri District, creation of a new electorate will ensure this concept is not another land-grabbing scheme for NCDC. The Government should now consider concept like the metro-manila model where there are many cities within a Metropolitan Urbanization Framework

When will the Electorate of Kairiku-Hiri be separated so CPG effectively addresses the issues affecting my people of Kairiku-Hiri and Central Province?

On 1 June 2018, I presented a petition on this Floor, and the issues am raising here is based on that petition and are reoccurring again and again.

When shall Parliament endorse a Select Committee to redefine and re-establish the concept of NCD and NCDC as stated by my petition going back 135 years?

Can an investigation be set up to look into this very serious abuse of office?

Thank you.

Land Management

Mr ALFRED MANASE (Kandep) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, this week I have been standing and sitting and finally I, have gotten your attention on the Friday afternoon.

I want to add a grievance in relation to town planning. Following on from the Governor of Central Province, I think that those grievance raised are very important points.

It appears that there is a total breakdown in the manner that we manage town land and also for acquisition of customary land and this has been causing a big challenge for all of us in and around NCD. The intrusion appears to be taking over customary land.

But, back in our districts, we are also losing land because landowners who have given their land some years ago are now intruding onto the Government land and taking back their land, stating that they have not been paid and many other issues.

So, there are two completely different scenarios that are happening in the country, on one hand we have the situation which has been expressed by the Governor for Central Province and acquisition of land by municipal authority and governments. While, on the other hand we have land being taken over by the landowners themselves and anybody who think they are capable of developing Government land without having a proper lease.

This brings a big challenge for the overall development of this country and for some reasons the Department of Lands is not performing to full capacity. One of its main function is to acquire land from customary land for development purposes.

And, I think that is not happening so we are witnessing a lot of customary land being sold to businesses which is not allowed and directly to other citizens which we see a lot uncontrolled development because those land are acquired privately and State has no control over it.

So, issues such as town planning, service providers and other municipal services are not reaching these lands and there are many example in and around NCD. This is a very important area that the Department of Lands needs to become more proactive.

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Firstly, in terms of setting an agenda in acquiring town land for the expansion of the town, Port Moresby is not going to remain the same and so proper acquisition methods should be applied and those acquisition processes are provided by law. So the department needs to acquire land and then lease it. Acquire the land properly from the Central Province landowners so that the city can expand and they can also be properly compensated so that the issue of the Governor about land grabbing will not occur. And then the government can develop those land and collect land taxes properly and thereby those revenue goes into ensuring the cities are properly developed.

Similarly in the districts, we have small district headquarters which are being inundated with the takeovers by customary landowners who have given the land away previously. And anybody who wants to do business they just go on to the land and we find it very difficult some times to tell them to vacate the land. And they say it's been given to us by Lands Department, some Lands officer just writes a letter and say that you can go and build a shop there. Some of them are given licences. How they get the licences is not known.

So, sometimes when we want to build a school or classroom it is becoming a problem for us. Or if you want to expand the hospital then it becomes a problem because adjacent to the hospital, somebody has put up a shop and try to trade in front of the hospital. And when you want to build a ward, you just can't expand it because you have to deal with these guys who have encroached on to the land.

So, town planning is becoming a major issue of concern. I think in 2050 or 2060 Papua New Guinea will not be the same. Papua New Guinea will grow and we need to start proper planning as to how we want to develop this country and how our people should live there on.

So, there is a greater need now for the Lands Department to think proactively and think ahead as to how it wants to ensure that Papua New Guinea develops in a sustained and orderly manner both in cities as well as in our rural towns. And those rural towns need to become business units. They have to grow so services can be delivered.

I suggest a holistic approach, particularly for the rural districts such as Kandep, Margarima, Tari, Finschhafen, Esa'ala and some of those districts where we are spending a fair bit of our DSIP to try and bring services. One of the problems I have seen is that, when we want to build the district office, we don't know where the road will be, and so we just build it on an empty space and then later we find that we have to build a road connecting the other services. And the building that we just put up has become an obstacle to access. So we have to build the road around the districts offices and all those sort of things.

So, we need proper town planning for the rural towns as well. In those planning they should set out where the shops are going to be, where the government officers are going to be, where the hospital should be, where the school should be, where the staff houses ought to be built and all of those things.

I think in some of our districts, we are building houses anywhere we want. The DDA is also contributing to the problem that is already there. If we want to build staff houses, we just find some vacant land and build the staff houses. We don't know whether there is an allotment for it, where the services are going to be run, and where the roads are going to go in.

So, all of those are creating challenges for the development of those towns. And so my suggestion at this time is to have a proper holistic approach, perhaps through the Department of Provincial Affairs or through the Department of Lands that proper town planning does happen and lands are properly allocated for proper services like water supply, electricity, streets, roads and government buildings should be properly allocated.

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So that, we have nice well-developed towns instead of trying to turn small district towns into squatter settlements. That does not look good. We have already done the same to the towns and cities so, there should be a sustained and a more properly planned approach to developing our towns and cities of course, our rural districts as well. In this way, our country develops in an orderly manner.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the grievances debate be noted – agreed to.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as we would prevent me moving a series of motions relating to the discharge and appointment of Assistant Speaker, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members to various Parliamentary Committees.

DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SPEAKER

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

That in accordance with *Standing Order 14*, Mr Richard Masere be discharged and that Mr Ross Seymour be appointed Assistant Speaker.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CITIZENSHIP MATTERS – DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

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

That, Mr Philip Undialu be discharged from attendance as member of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship Matters and Mr Peter Sapia be appointed member of the Committee.

PERMANENT PARLIAMNETARY COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND TOURISM – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

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

That Mr Peter Sapia be appointed member of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Tourism.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE – APPOINTMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

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

That Mr William Tongamp be appointed Chairman and Mr Fabian Pok be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign and Defence.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND ESTIMATES –
DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

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

That Mr Robert Agarobe be discharged from attendance as Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Plans and Estimates and Mr Allan Bird be appointed Chairman of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENATRY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUSINESS –
DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That Mr Allan Bird, Mr Jonny Alonk and Mr Richard Masere be discharged from attendance as members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Private Business and Mr Philip Undialu and Mr Robert Agarobe be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENATRY COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES –
DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CAHIRMAN**

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

That Mr Philip Undialu be discharged from attendance as Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Mr Benjamin Philip be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS –
DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That Mr Philip Undialu be discharged from attendance as member of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Peter Numu and Mr Koi Trappe be appointed members of the Committee.

**BI-PARTISAN COMMITTEE ON BOUGAINVILLE MATTERS –
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

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

That Mr William Nakin be appointed Chairman of the Bi-partisan Committee on Bougainville matters.

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Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen – Minister for Finance) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Members of Parliament for this week ending of session.

As I said, this is our first and primary role as the members of this House and I am thankful to the Members of the Opposition and Government for sitting through this week session.

ADOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m.