

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 10 November 2020

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

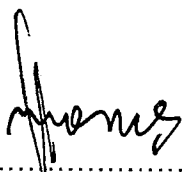
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Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making the corrections.

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

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



.....
Mr Harry Momos

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIRST DAY
Tuesday 10 November 2020

The Parliament met at 2 p.m., according to the Terms of its Resolution of 10 September 2020.

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Koni Iguan**) took the Chair.

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

Sitting Suspended.

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair at 2.50 p.m., and invited the Member for Samarai-Murua, **Honorable Isi Henry Leonard** to say Prayers:

‘Heavenly Father, we acknowledge you this afternoon as our Sovereign Lord, as our creator and as our God in this Parliament House. So mighty God, we ask that your Holy Spirit be sent upon each and every one of us so that this session, will have more meaning as we deliberate on the issues that are set before us. Mighty God, we are mere human beings and the task before us is tremendous. Therefore, this afternoon we ask you to forgive us our iniquities so that our prayer and our discussions are heard.

So, Divine Father, we ask you to forgive our iniquities. Bless the Prime Minister and the ministers, bless all Opposition Leader and every other MP that is here on this Floor. Mighty God, may you intervene and help us to discuss this very important agenda; the Budget for 2021. As we sit and deliberate, Mighty God, may you inspire each and every one of us. Amen’

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

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Members, I have to inform Parliament that the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met today and resolve that:

- (a) The *National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)* will be allowed to broadcast live on radio Questions Without Notice as part of its community obligation,

(b) The *National Television Service (Kundu 2)*, *EMTV* and *TVWAN* will be allowed to telecast live Questions Without Notice for news purposes for the duration of this Meeting.

**ISSUE AND RETURN OF WRIT - GOROKA OPEN ELECTORATE -
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Members, I lay on the Table the Return of the Writ which His Excellency, the Governor-General issued for a by-election of a Member to serve the Goroka Open Electorate following the decision of the Supreme Court Review Order (SCRE No. 2 of 2019) dated 3 March 2020 in the matter of the National Court which sat as a Court of Disputed Returns (EP No. 2 of 2017) and that by the endorsement on the writ, it was certified that Mr Aiye Humai Tambua was duly elected as the Member for Goroka Open Electorate.

Honourable Members, I have received the Return of the Writ and administered the Declaration of Loyalty and Declaration of Office on Tuesday, 13 October 2020 at the State Dining room.

I welcome the new Member.

**DECISION ON LEADERSHIP TRIBUNAL (Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH) –
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Members, I present the decision and subsequent orders in the matter of a reference by the Public Prosecutor pursuant to *Section 27(2)* of the *Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* and in the matter of Honourable Patrick Pruaitch, Member for Aitape-Lumi Open, reference No. LT. 1 of 2018.

In accordance with *Section 27(1), (2) and (3)* of the *Constitution*, the tribunal advised that Honourable Patrick Pruaitch, Member for Aitape-Lumi Open pleaded guilty to allegations 6, 7 and 8 relating to late submissions of his annual return under the Leadership Code.

02/01

Subsequent to the submissions on penalty, the tribunal on Monday, 19 October 2020 ruled that in accordance with the relevant penalty provisions *Section 28 (1) (a)* of the *Constitution*, *Section 27 (5) (a)* and *(b)* of the *Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* and *Section 2* of the *Leadership Code, Alternative Penalty Act 1986*, the tribunal recommended to the appropriate authority a fine of K1,000 for each of the proven allegations and was fined a total of K3,000. And having paid the fine in compliance with *Section 27 (6)* of the *Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* and the decision of the tribunal, his suspension was lifted and he resumed office as the Member for Aitape-Lumi Open Electorate.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTS

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that the Speaker in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution* Certified the following *Acts* as having been made by the National Parliament:

- (1) *Appropriation (General Public Services Expenditure 2020) Act 2019*,
- (2) *Appropriation (General Public Services Expenditure 2020) (Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (3) *Central Banking (Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (4) *National Water Supply and Sanitation (Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (5) *Papua New Guinea Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (6) *Prime Minister and National Executive Council (Amendment No.2) Act 2020*,
- (7) *Public Services (Management) (Consequential Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (8) *Superannuation (General Provisions) (Amendment) Act 2020*,
- (9) *Supplementary (Appropriation) Act 2020*,
- (10) *The Joint Forces College of Papua New Guinea Act 2020*.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER

(Mrs NAHAU KAMBU ROONEY) -

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform this Parliament of the death of Mrs Nahau Kambu Rooney, on 16 October 2020, a former Member for Manus Open Electorate. She was first elected to the Second National Parliament from 1977 to 1982, and was re-elected to the Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987, for the same seat following a recount of votes for the general elections.

During those terms, she served as the Minister for Correctional Services and Liquor Licensing from 1977 to 1978, Minister for Justice and Liquor Licensing from 1978 to 1980, Minister for Decentralisation for three months in 1980 and Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Culture 1985 to 1987. Whilst being the Minister for Justice she was convicted for Contempt of Court but was released on licence in 1979.

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS (STUDENTS OF GOLDIE RIVER AND
MANUGORO PRIMARY SCHOOLS) –**

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of the students of Goldie River and Manugoro Primary Schools, who are present in the Public Gallery. On behalf of the Parliament, I extend to the visitors a very warm welcome to the National Parliament.

QUESTIONS

Handling of Covid-19 cases

Mr KOBBY BOMAREO –Mr Speaker, Before I ask my questions to the Minister for Immigration and Border Security, let me commend the Government, Police and Defence Personnel and Health Department for working hand in hand during the Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in reduced number of cases.

03/01

Therefore, I would like to particularly thank the Minister for Immigration and Border Security for taking a bold step in reducing the number of cases here in Papua New Guinea, since the recall of Parliament for the emergency sitting.

Mr Speaker, I have two questions to ask the Minister in regards to the speculations on social media which the Minister himself is aware of.

During the period of Covid-19 up until now, an NGO group which involves two Canadians visited my district. They were in my district carrying out their jobs and eventually they got detained here by the authorities of Government, under instructions from the Immigration and Border Security.

My questions to the Minister are;

- (1) Can the Minister give an update on the two detainees and what laws they breached in order to be detained?
- (2) Can the Minister tell us where these detainees are kept?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr WESTLEY NUKUNDJ – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Tewai-Siassi for asking me those questions.

Firstly, I would like to make the people of Papua New Guinea understand by making it clear on this Floor of Parliament that questions on the two Canadians is not a new issue because it has become a subject on social media for the past few days. Many people have sided with the two detainees, many have gone against; however, the Immigration Department

does not side with the skin colours even if you are a foreigner, the Department abides by its laws.

The Immigration Department received complaints from the people of Tewai-Siassi that the two Canadians have been doing their own job which were not too pleasing before the eyes of that particular electorate. They were doing their own work which were not in line with the district's programme through the District Development Authority.

The Immigration Department found out that the two foreigners from Canada entered our country through tourist visas. Foreigners enter our country using different types of visa depending on the type of work they come to do.

When the Immigration Department have interviewed these two foreigners, they said they were operating under an NGO. But, they have already breached the law because they entered our country as tourists which means they are permitted to stay for a limited period and not to live here and run their own programs. So that was the first law they breached.

04/01

Mr Speaker, they have overstayed their tourist visa which only allows the visitors to stay in the country for three to six months. So, our system detected that these two tourists haven't left the county and still remained here.

So, they breached the *Migration Act* and overstayed their tourist visa so the Immigrations Officers picked them and detained them whilst we were preparing the deportation orders. I signed the deportation orders to let them return to their country.

In regard to your second question, about the special treatment accorded to these two Canadians, I would like to state here that during the Covid-19 pandemic there was a travel ban and therefore we could not send them back to their country. So, we made the right decision to accommodate them there. However, many other tourists who breached their visa regulations were detained at the Bomana detention centre at the Immigration centre.

We did not send them to the Bomana Detention Centre because the old man, the father, was a former translator who served that electorate by translating the Bible and resided at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Eastern Highlands Province. So, he recently returned using the tourist visa, and since he was ill, the rightful thing to do was to provide them a proper accommodation and that is what the Department did.

The Department did not breach any policies, we have done our job under the laws provided. But members of the public have gone to Facebook criticising the department of giving special treatment to one particular ethnic group. Please understand that the person had

served us in the past and he had deteriorating health so the best option was to accommodate him in a hotel. What if he died because of poor accommodation, what would we have done?

In addition, some people have accused these two Canadians saying they have promised to bring in some development funds which exceeded the DSIP amount allocated. They were accused of promoting cargo cult mentality. They promised the people that there were machines in Port Moresby and Lae wharves which would be brought in to Tewai-Siassi to bring about development. So since they were encouraging cargo cult, we thought it was best to deport them because had they remained, they could bring false hope to the people which might have negative repercussions.

Firstly, they had the wrong visa, secondly their visa term had expired so without giving notice to anyone, they will leave our shore, thank you.

Revisit AFP Arrangement

Mr PETER IPATAS –Thank you Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Prime Minister.

I have asked this question many times and once again I want ask this question.

Among many challenges that we are facing as a nation, one of the biggest is law and order.

05/01

From time and time again, I have been trying to get the consent of our government to negotiate with the Australian Government to reactivate the AFP arrangement we had in the past. There may be members or governors from this floor who may not want the assistance of the Australians, but there are some of us who need the Australian police to come and assist us to improve the capacity for our police in our provinces.

Mr Prime Minister, my question is simple; for those of us provinces that want to engage with the Australian police, can we find a way and grant them immunity so they can work and improve our law and order situation?

Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you Mr Speaker, let me appreciate our Governor's question on this important issue, which he has raised time and again.

Mr Speaker, at this stage, I do not have a direct answer but let me assure him and the Parliament that I will get an answer to him anytime this week and he will get a response as to what is stopping us from moving into that space, I know, previously, there was a court order that stopped us from engaging the Australian Police but I have made a commitment that it will be re-visited. As to exactly, when we will be revisiting this option, I will get a firm answer this week and inform Parliament.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Sale of SOE Assets

Mr RICHARD MARU – Thank you Mr Speaker, my question is directed to State Enterprises Minister but since that he has stepped out, Mr Speaker, I will re-direct my question to the Prime Minister.

In the last two weeks we have been hearing government employees announcing to the country that the Government intends to sell a number of SOEs, non-core assets, announcing that Air Niugini will scale down its properties. These statements have been made by the government employees and these are very important statements.

Mr Speaker, I will now divert my question to the Minister for State Enterprises since he is in the Chamber

Mr Speaker, SOEs are owned by the eight million people of Papua New Guinea and selling their assets is a serious matter, given this background, I would like to ask the Minister for State Enterprises;

- (1) Has the Marape Government made a policy decision to start scaling down SOEs?
- (2) What do you define as non-core and core-assets?
- (3) Is there any truth that you will sell the Telikom Group?
- (4) What process will you follow, when you see the aim to sell it to Papua New Guinea investors like, the Super Funds or is it aimed to go on market globally?
- (5) Are you doing a FIRE sale to rescue these SOE's because they are in serious financial trouble or are you looking at equity raising for re-investing in those assets?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Yangoru-Saussia Open for the important questions related to the media messages about the sale of these concerned.

The government did not make it as a policy but we are bringing a SOE reform and we have negotiated as a SOE reform policy base loan which NDB has approved about \$500 million purely based on the SOE reforms such as making merit-based appointments and also bringing some governance and accountability within all SOEs.

Mr Speaker, we are not intending to do any fire-sales to clarify non-core and core assets in terms of telecommunication business of course there are some telecommunication or mobile communication businesses which are core business but operate radio and TV stations as non-core asset. *EMTV* is classified as non-core business.

06/01

And also we are assessing the value of all these businesses whether they are actually providing positive cash flow or are not performing well. We want to follow a transparent process in making the opportunity available for our super funds for our mothers and fathers, if we do sell, to have the first opportunity to get equity in those businesses to buy those businesses.

Any truth in selling Telikom, Mr Speaker, right now there is no such truth in selling the entire Telikom Group. We actually have billions of loans just only in the name of telecommunication business

Mr Speaker, The former regime borrowed in the last six to seven years more than K1.5 billion in terms of establishing some of the infrastructure assets. Nothing wrong with those assets but this is the challenge that we are facing in monetizing and commercialising those assets. For example 270 million dollars' worth of loan for our domestic cables and an additional 200 million dollars which is almost. K800 million of loan for our 200 towers. Mr Speaker, We only have 580 towers, in reality we only have 5% of the market in telecommunication. The 95 per cent of the market is with another private company In order for us to be competitive we have to have a minimum of 750 towers, which is another 150 towers. Until such a time we can't really say that we can compete with the section.

Mr Speaker, nothing wrong if we can take a part of how BSP became successful in the Government keeping 25 per cent and generating more than a K150 million revenue on a yearly basis rather than keeping all the businesses 100 per cent and making a loss. Mr.

Speaker, as we speak, in Telikom business alone we are projecting a K75 million kina loss by the end of this year. So instead of losing money on a monthly and yearly basis we could actually bring our credible partners like our super funds and industry partners if there is an opportunity that we can generate income even if we reduce our stakeholding below 50 per cent or 49/51 or 51/49 that's the Government's policy as per Prime Minister's instructions. He instructed to keep everything 51 per cent even if you are taking the semi privatisation policy and first priority will be for our super funds and for our fathers and mothers.

Mr Speaker, we will follow a completely transparent process. There will be no unsolicited offers, everything will be transparently done and I can assure the Honourable Member that there will not be any fire sale and they are in trouble but not in a serious trouble. And we are working around the clock to seek cheap finance. For example, by refinancing our commercial debt with BSP alone which we are paying 7-8 per cent interest almost like K1.5 billion worth of various loans which involve Telikom, PNG Power, Air Niugini and all, by simply refinancing some of these cheap finances if Government considers to refinance these loans, i.e can immediately inject a huge cash flow into the others. Because we are getting ADB loan well below one per cent at exactly 0.76 per cent which can immediately bring the savings while we are paying seven percent to eight percent of those commercial interest.

Supplementary Question

SOE's – Clarify Government Policy

MR. PAIAS WINGTI -What is the Government's position in looking at the Private Enterprise and the businesses that the Government is owning? What is the Government's position? Is the Government going to be a 100 per cent owner of these businesses like what we are doing or is the Government going to have a position where it becomes a passive investor taking 25-30 per cent? I want the Government to clear that area. A clear example is Bank South Pacific. When we were in Government the bank was valued at K330 million and we decided to only have 25 per cent and let the private enterprise take over the bank. Today that bank is worth K16 billion. Today the 25 per cent shares is now worth 6-7 billion. Every time the bank is paying dividends and taxes and expanding throughout the region. What is this Government going to do with PNG Power, Telikom and Air Niugini, I want the Government to clear that.

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL - Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Governor of Western Highlands for the supplementary question.

Mr Speaker as I stated earlier, the Government's position is to engage into semi privatisation and follow the BSP model. In fact, Mr. Speaker, IPBC or KCHL has been developed to act as a warehouse for the SOEs to fix their books, accounts and then come to this stage

07/01

I assure the Governor that the Government's position is to restore some credibility back to these entities.

Some of these entities provide services in terms of power and water supply and it is paramount that they are Government's priorities.

Mr Speaker, we cannot sell some of these entities in their current state. We have to fix some of those businesses. For example, Air Niugini, in book value could be zero, and therefore, it is not wise to sell this company and its assets. The Government will have to restructure our workforce, refinance and re-establish these businesses as credible money-making businesses and our Super Funds will be interested and our ordinary citizens will be satisfied.

Mr Speaker, I assure Parliament that we are taking that path, following the success of our Bank South Pacific which we do not intend to sell it 100 percent but we are looking at improving and restructuring so that they still pump dividends to the National Government for the time being.

Dredging of Fly River

Mr JAMES DONALD – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change.

My questions are in regards to the recent announcement in the dailies about one or two weeks ago in a statement he made on the dredging of the Fly River to remove the sand from the mouth of the river and upstream. This has raised some concerns in the province because we are not aware.

It was announced that a Hong Kong company will be engaged to dredge the sand in my province at a total cost of around K80 million per month to carry out these works.

My questions are as follows;

(1) If the arrangement has started and there is progress, what are the steps in informing the provincial leaders on this project?

(2) What is the rationale behind the dredging of these sand and removing it to Hong Kong as per the Ministers announcement? What sense does it make? What will that sand be done with in Hong Kong?

(3) Has the National Executive Council approved these undertakings?

We the provincial leaders would very much like to know so that we can join hands in assisting in this project.

Mr WERA MORI – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for North Fly for his series of questions. Before I proceed to answer his questions let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Chuave, to congratulate the newly elected Member for Goroka, Honourable Aye Tambua.

Mr Speaker, I want to inform this Parliament that there has been a lot of issues concerning environment and, especially the need for us to take some actions to clean the environment itself. Recently, in the last Meeting, we had a series of questions from the honourable Governor for Gulf.

The rationale behind why OK Tedi Mine has got to start is simply for the fact that we have got a lot of issues surrounding environmental concerns, not only in OK Tedi, but of course, if you can appreciate we have contributions of pollution down from Porgera through the Strickland river.

Mr Speaker, let me explain the rationality behind that so that you can appreciate why we need to do that. There has been over sedimentation and we have got sand building up at the mouth of the Fly River and that slows down the energy of the Fly River itself.

Mr Speaker, what it basically means is that those sediments that have lot of mine related materials caught up in that are suspended in clay basically spread out on the banks of the Fly River and they over flood the river banks. At the next turn when we have a dry season the water recedes and it deposits those high sulphate material and it basically promotes oxidation.

08/01

The next wet season the Fly River floods again and converts what has been oxidised to sulphuric acid. In the next dry season you will have a dry bank and you can see that when you fly up the Fly River.

Mr Speaker, as a Government we have got to do something about it. I have issued an environmental improvement plan to the Ok Tedi Mine to take up responsibility and manage this process. This is to stop this problem developing. I am thankful that the Member for North Fly has asked these questions because this gives me the opportunity to explain. People have been going onto *facebook* and saying that they will go and mine out gold and other rare elements in those sands.

Mr Speaker, you will have to spend millions of dollars to come up with a ton of gold and therefore uneconomical. There are, however, opportunities to peg the banks of Fly River upstream to Albertis where they can get good and quality gold. In essence, what I am trying to say here is that under this environmental improvement directive to Ok Tedi, this is what I can do. I am proposing to them the Ongteng Group because they will want to do it for free. The cost will not be US\$ 80 million. This is what it costs for the operations at Bigeh.

The Western Provincial Government now has an opportunity to meet with the management of Ok Tedi. The arrangements for them to come up to have this dredging exercise and clean the mouth of Fly River is something they can do if there is any business transactions. I can only go as far as that because we have a serious problem. We do not only have to worry about the Gulf of Papua but also that those sediments are going to make their way down to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Mr Speaker, we have got to take some responsibility somewhere. I am thankful to the people of Fly River for their patience and forbearance because the Fly River system has not only been contaminated by Ok Tedi but also the Porgera Gold Mine. These are arrangements that have been put in place where we start cleaning the clogging at the mouth of the Fly River to allow for free flowing. The disposing of the sediments is something the Western Provincial Government can take up with the management of Ok Tedi and see how best both parties can benefit. In reassuring the Member and the leaders of Western Province and our people, we are a responsible Government and we are taking measures to clean up the environment. We will not be only confined to Ok Tedi but also Tolokuma, Wild Dog and other.

Mr SPEAKER – Before the Chair allows another question, can I ask the Ministers to respond in pidgin because a lot of our people are villagers, therefore, can only understand your responses if it were in pidgin. Thank you.

Supplementary Question

Mr SAM AKOITAI – I thank the Member for asking these questions because since the issue is on social media, it has created doubt and people want answers. I understand his explanation on acid rock drainage problem for Ok Tedi.

As we all understand, maybe the recovery rate for Ok Tedi is not the same for other, mines for example, Panguna. I understand the recovery rate was ranging from around 60 per cent to 67 per cent.

09-01

So, you would understand that 37 per cent has been discharged in the river system.

My question is, under what feasibility study has the Minister approved for the company to transport the gravel out from this country. This is because we have assured the people of Western province on what content they want to transport to Hong Kong to process. Do we know how much the mineral content the gravel contains?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for Central Bougainville for his Supplementary Question. Regarding the recovery in Ok Tedi, it is true that 37 per cent was discharged into the river system earlier but today they have improved it up to almost 90 per cent. However, the actual percentage is unknown but whatever it is, the nature and the behaviour of gold is that, it is a heavy metal and being heavy it will never travel far. It will settle at a distance where there is no strong current.

So, people with commercial understanding will comprehend that at the junction of Porgera River, Strickland River, Lake Murray and Halbeaches River the river currents there are weak and the metal deposits would be settled there. From there to the downstream, the currents are strong and you would find fine pieces of metals.

However, law is not restricting anybody to test to see how many gold deposits are there. It is not my department's duty to do so if anybody wishes to do, they can do a test and apply to MRA.

My duty is to clean up an environment therefore I am giving this instruction. I send an environment improvement order plan to Ok Tedi and it's Ok Tedi's duty to implement it. The company must be based at the delta of the Fly River because up at Ok Tedi those issues will still be there.

So I also want to assure the Parliament that because of the stones from Ok Tedi, those issues will be still there so long as the red stones and sediments were talked about with the use of technologies. It will be there but they will use it for commercial venture.

Mr Sam Akoitai – Point of Order! I appreciate the explanation the Minister is making but he is not answering my question. I was asking, were there any feasibility study carried out to find out the mineral content of the gravel that will be transported out? Don't beat around and waste time for other members to ask questions.

Mr SPEAKER — Point of order in order.

Mr WERA MORI — It's not the responsibility of my ministry or for the CEPA to carry out the feasibility study. It's the duty of that particular company and the Ok Tedi mine management because we have given them the environment improvement plan order to clean up Ok Tedi.

Mr Belden Namah — Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the Minister seems to be misleading Parliament. He is saying that the gold would be stuck up and then he is saying that the national government decided to trade the sand and then he is now giving the responsibility to Ok Tedi. Mr Speaker, my point of order is this, what is the economic rationale for you to carry sand all the way to Hong Kong?

Mr SPEAKER — Your point of order is out of order as you ask a new question. I would ask the Minister to continue.

10/01

Mr WERA MORI – Thankyou Member for Central Bougainville. This issue of testing done is not my Department's or the Government's business.

My Department is considered as a regulator in making sure that OK Tedi is free from pollution.

Therefore, we have given the Environmental Improvement Plan Order to OK Tedi, now the onus is on OK Tedi Mine Management to liaise with this company. If they feel that some of the economic benefits will be taken away from them then it's up to decide. It's really not our business to interfere with this company.

It's simple as that.

Thankyou, Mr speaker.

Mr Sam Akoitai – Point of Order! This is the people concern which was circulated in the social media and it's the resources that you are trying take away from the people that I am worried about.

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Member for Central Bougainville you have raised two points of order already and a third one now. You can ask a new question after the Central Governor's question.

Central Province Boundaries

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ - Thankyou Mr Speaker for recognising the people of Central Province. I want to direct my questions to the Minister for Inter-Government Relations.

Mr Speaker, as the Governor of Central Province I am also in a state of confusion on where my boundary line is with the National Capital District.

Over the last so many years, the Central and NCD border seem to be moved about three times. For example, I can recall the first boundary along Magi Highway was at Saraga Market, Six Mile, then it was moved to Dogura and again moved to Bautama.

Along the Hubert Murray Highway, it used to be at ATS Roundabout but now moved up to 14 Mile.

Along the Porebada Road it was moved from Baruni Junction all the way to Porebada Junction and now I hear it has been moved to where the LNG Plant site is.

(1) Can you explain to the people of Central Province and the people of PNG where the actual boundary is?

Because the Governor for NCD and his troops seem to think that they can march into my Province anytime they feel like it

And if the boundary has been moved then we want to know who moved it?

What process did they follow and under what law?

(2) Do you know anything about (HVS) which stands for Hirri, Vanapa and Sogeri, which really is the physical boundary of the Hirri Electorate which comprises of 260 000 hectares of wetland and pristine forest.

Can you explain because there are rumors that this physical boundary was moved for the greater interest of Port Moresby or does it fall under Central Province interest?

11/01

So my question to the good Minister is;

(1) Is he aware of this that we are in suspense and fear once the Hirri and the Kairuku electorate is separated this could easily fall under NCD boundaries, because the Compulsory Acquisition will kick in once the physical boundaries are accepted and gazetted?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PILA NININGI – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Governor for these very important questions.

There is a lot of areas where there is overlaps. Just last week I have requested for the Boundaries Commission to visit some parts of the Highlands Region and it involves the Surveyor General, Valuer General and the Director of National Mapping Bureau to establish where the boundaries are. For example; along Jiwaka and Western Highlands, whether it is Wara Tumang or Panga Kopi. So they have already established that area.

We will do the same for Central Province and National Capital District to establish your boundaries. We must follow the system where no boundaries over-lap. For now I have sent a team to visit your areas and as soon as they report back to me, next thing to do is to send the team of surveyors to mark the boundaries. So from there, we can all be aware where the Central Province and NCD boundaries are. We are in the process of doing it. There are some confusion going on, but we will get to the bottom of it.

Having said this, if you have a title on someone's land you have a right but that is a different matter. For now all provinces and districts must try to establish this so I would like

everyone to cooperate with the departments responsible and Provincial Affairs so that we do not confuse our boundaries.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, our time for questions this day has lapsed.

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.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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

That so much of the standing be suspended as would prevent me moving a motion to establish and appoint Members to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Based Violence.

SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE – ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMEBERS –

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

I move that:

(1) That the Parliament establish a Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Based Violence consisting of:

- (a) Mr Charles Abel (Chairman),
- (b) Mr Allan Bird (Deputy Chairman),
- (c) Mr Michael Dua,
- (d) Mr Powes Parkop,
- (e) Mr Aiye Tambua,
- (f) Mr Ginson Saonu, and;

(g) Dr Allan Marat.

(2) The Committee shall have the following functions and responsibilities to –

- (a) Identify the forms of gender based-violence, specifically violence against woman and girls including, but not limited to coercive control and technology facilitated abuse;
- (b) Identify the immediate and long-term measures to prevent gender based violence, with the focus on behavioural change for future generations; and,
- (c) Inquire into the level and impact of coordination and accountability for services and policy responses across the government departments, provincial and local-level governments, non-government and community based organisations and private sector; and,

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° (d) inquire into the adequacy of the evidence and prevalence data of gender based violence and how to overcome limitations in the collection of nationally consistent and timely data including, but not limited to, court, police and hospitals,

(e) identify the perpetrator intervention programs and support services to help them change their behavior,

(f) consider the views and experiences of frontline services, advocacy groups and others working to address gender-based violence.

(3) The Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records and to act during recess;and

(4) Finally the quorum for a meeting of the Committee is four.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn

The Parliament adjourned at 3. 50 p.m..