

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 7 September 2021

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

The Draft Hansard is uncorrected. It is also privileged. Members have one week from the date of this issue of Draft Hansard in which to make corrections to their speeches. Until the expiration of this one week period, Draft Hansard must not be quoted as final and accurate report of the debates of the National Parliament.

Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A1-23 (next to the Security Control Room).

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

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

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



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HARRY MOMOS

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 7 September 2021

The Parliament met at 2 p.m., according to the terms of Resolution of 20 August 2021.

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair and invited the Member for Finschhafen, Leader of the Government Business and Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, **Honourable Rainbo Paita** to say Prayers:

‘Dear Lord, we say thank you for all the good things you have done in our lives. We thank you for this beautiful country, that we are free to gather together in this House and represent our people on this Floor in this House. We thank you for all the good things and the many good things, you will do in our lives and our country. Father I offer our prayer, a very sinful prayer; Father I am not worthy to offer this sinful prayer. I uphold these gentlemen here representing our people in this country into your hands, Father, give us a double portion of your wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Father, we are humans and we are not perfect before your eyes you have chosen us in this time to lead your people going forward from both sides of the House. Be with us, strengthen us, guide us, be with our people as we try our best in this trying times to hold this country together. We thank you for all the good things you have done, Father, we cannot thank you enough. As we go through this meeting today, Father, we ask you to be in the midst of us to lead, guide and protect us give us wisdom to speak, give us knowledge, give us all that we need to be the leaders of this Honourable House to represent our people the way you want God, I offer our Speaker of this House, the Clerk of this Parliament, the support staffs, the members on both the Government and the Opposition side and everyone in this House participating in this process to lead this country in a better way. Father I offer this sinful prayer on behalf of this gentlemen standing this House; if this prayer is not in the way you want it, Father I pray that you can wash this prayer with the precious blood of your son, Jesus Christ. Make a way so that it can come to you and at your own time and space you can answer our prayers, Father. I pray for each individual Member standing here; whatever problems we are going through, in our districts, in our provinces and in our own lives, Father may you intervene and be with us to guide us and strengthen us. As I have said we are mere humans of this earth trying to lead your people who are in multitudes with so many needs and wants, Amen.’

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that the

Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met on 17 August 2021, and resolved that the *National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) Television and Radio* would broadcast and televise live; the extended coverage for the whole Parliament Proceedings during every meeting of Parliament as part of its community service obligation to the citizens and stake-holders.

This opportunity is also extended to other televisions and radio stations if they wish to cover the proceedings, for news purposes for the duration of this meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTS

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution*, I certified the *Oil and Gas Papua LNG Project Amendment Act 2021*, as having been made by the National Parliament.

02/01

QUESTIONS

Outstanding Entitlements Owed to Political Parties

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Thank you, Mr Speaker I want to direct my question to the Prime Minister and its in relation to the benefits that the State accords to political parties. And its based on the *Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates*, particularly regarding the provision of benefits to political parties.

Mr Speaker, I believe the last government failed miserably to honor its responsibility to political parties.

Mr Speaker, as you know political parties operates effectively if funds are available. But in this case, the State has not fulfilled its commitment in this term of Parliament.

(1) Can the Prime Minister, state the position of the Government whether it will fund political parties at all, please inform this Parliament accordingly?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Aitape-Lumi and Leader of National Alliance Party for his question in relation to the final entitlements owed to political parties.

He mentioned that these entitlements have been outstanding for many years. But I want to assure him that it's not the policy of this Government to honor the commitment of the political parties. Especially what is not legally due to them to run their political parties. And same applies to some of the legacies issues that we have cleared so far. These are some of the unfulfilled commitments which our Government is faced with.

But, I assure the Member for Aitape-Lumi and Leader of National Alliance Party that all entitlements to political parties including officials will be looked at to retire what is outstanding before we go into 2022 financial year.

Confusion amongst the public on vaccination

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Thank you, Mr Speaker I also want to direct my question to the Prime Minister.

But before I do so, through you, Mr Speaker, I want to greatly appreciate the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Lands and Transport for visiting my Province especially the rural part of the provinces both North Coast and South Coast.

My question is in relation to the recent confusion amongst the public regarding the vaccination policy.

The Government of the day mentioned that it's not compulsory but as for the business entities want all their employees to be vaccinated with the no job than no job policy.

(1) Can the Prime Minister clarify the Government's stance on vaccination to the public?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I thank the Governor of West New Britain for his question. I also want to put on record my gratitude to the Governor and the Member for working hand in hand in welcoming me when I visited their electorates via Lae.

I flew over from Lae to West New Britain in a helicopter and landed at the village called Hamulut and the people there warmly welcomed me and after that we flew to Kimbe for the provincial visit.

03/01

The hospitality and the reception were very good and I would like to thank the people of West New Britain Province for "pasin west". I also thank the leadership for the warm embrace.

On Friday morning, as I was leaving the hotel, there was a group of Papua New Guineans who were possibly facing an issue with the call on vaccination were standing outside

in the Lae International Hotel gates. It was not part of my program to visit them but I had to step down in the rain and address the concerned workers. I told them that I will send a team from the national control centre to go visit those work places that have the issue of “no jab-no work” policy.

Mr Speaker, as I mentioned last time, I made absolutely clear that there is no industrial dispute that has come through to the government through the Department of Labour. However, in case it is being practised in work places, the government has sent a team with the Controller himself to meet with the Lae Chamber of Commerce and find out all the work-related issues.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the country, our workers and our students at the University of Technology that as promised, a team has been deployed to go to Lae and investigate what the situation is like there. They are there to see first-hand whether the “Niupla Pasin” that we have established through the *National Pandemic Act* has been adhered to by companies in their work places.

I must also make it clear to us that work place safety is also important to many companies operating in Papua New Guinea. For instance, one cannot go to Lihir, Ok Tedi or Porgera with no consideration for safety of the work environment. Therefore, the team is going to try to find a balance between the safety of the work place and the rights of individual employees. I have sent the Controller and his team to investigate those individual cases if they have given consideration to the *niupla pasin* requirement of our country and applied the no jab-no job policy. It is a fine line but due consideration will be given when the report comes back.

Mr Speaker, I will mention again, that the government on record has no complaints from unions or individuals about workers facing this issue. When the report comes back then the Government will be in a better place to make decisions as to what we will do. The overall policy remains that the vaccine is optional for our citizens. It is not to be forced upon anyone but work places have policies too. We are now trying to find a fine line for both these policies to work side by side each other.

04/01

So, that employees rights are preserved in a safe work environment that is also safe for those who have been vaccinated whilst at the same time protecting the rights of those who choose not to be vaccinated to try to work in a safe environment in respect to the presence of Covid-19 in our country and possibly in the workplaces.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Sir Puka Temu – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think that the Prime Minister has not really answered the question raised by both the Governor of West New Britain and the Opposition Leader in the last Sitting.

I think the simple answer should be, the government's policy is voluntary. If any private company poses compulsory vaccination and staff refuse, they should not be sacked. I thought that that is the way the policy should be driven.

At the moment, we are hearing of many experiences of people protesting, managers are standing firm for the protection of their workforce but in terms of the issue a voluntary policy is a good one. But if individual companies impose and sack staff who refuse to be vaccinated than what is the response of the Minister for Labour and Industrial Relations.

I think the answer should be very straight forward where they should not sack but impose the *Niupela Pasin*.

Sacking the staff who refuse to get vaccinated is not right and the Prime Minister, should agree on that –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Abau, your point of order is not in order. The Honourable Prime Minister, has already answered the question and explained the position of the Government.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – There is an implication that we are not doing anything about this issue from the point of order raised by the Member for Abau. I need to make it absolutely clear because it has now become public conversation. The Government's policy is that vaccination is not compulsory but optional.

Now, I did indicate early that, there has been no industrial dispute raised to either the Minister for Labour and Industrial Relations or to the Government as yet, it is just the discussions occurring in the workplaces. And as responsible as we are, we have sent the Controller, to go and investigate at the workplaces where questions are emerging in the headline, "No Jab, No Jobs".

I have not received any direct industrial dispute on this matter and if our report finds that it is happening than we will make further announcement on that. But the policy remains that vaccination is not compulsory.

Mr SPEAKER – Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. I already made a ruling that the point of order is out of order and you have already answered the question.

Porgera Mine Update

Mr JAMES DONALD – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Prime Minister and it is in regard to the issue of Porgera.

Mr Speaker, few months ago the Prime Minister attended a meeting in Porgera and made a commitment that by 16 September, he would announce to the country the status of Porgera Mine.

Now, we have exactly nine more days before 16 September.

Can the Prime Minister, inform the people of Porgera and PNG of the status of Porgera Mine?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I would also like to thank the Member for North Fly for asking this question.

I would like to thank the landowners up at Pogera Valley, SML, LMP and the associated impact areas, right down to Strickland, past Hela, Western and West Sepik Provinces –

05/01

I thank the landowners from the Porgera valley SML, as well as LMP and the associate impact areas even right down to Strickland Hela, Western and West Sepik provinces for their support in ensuring that the process that we've started are running. And so far on record we've received very minimal distractions and disruptions from landowners and the provincial governments on the ground. I'm delighted and thank the Enga Provincial Government and landowners and as well as three provinces who are in the footprint of the discharge area of Porgera and Strickland river system.

Our intention remains that by 16 of September, the affirmative progress in as far as Porgera's restart is concerned will be announced to our country as part of our September 16 announcement. So, I assure the country through the question of the Honourable Member that commitment to announce the re-opening of Porgera on 16 of September remains.

Many works are running concurrently as we speak. For instance; the joint venture of Kumul Mining and Barrick Niugini to come is still in progress to reopen Porgera.

Work for recommencing agreement is still in progress and there are four subsidiary agreements that need to be run and agreed upon and we still running through them with our partners in Barrick. Our focus remains that on the 16 of September, we will make this announcement on the safe, size and form in which the new Porgera will be opened going forward.

I am still committed to this date line and I've never been sleeping as far as Porgera is concerned. We've taken back more, 51 per cent share of the new Porgera, and of that 51 per cent we are only paying for 36 per cent and will not be spending some money up front to pay. The deal was structured in a better form for our country. We are now committed to getting the sixth ticked off with our investor partner so, that no impediment stands in their way from September 16 going forward.

If the finer technicalities between Barrick and Kumul Mining are not totally settled by 16 of September, then both partners agree to work it through but the big picture and focus remain that the mine will be opened going forward. We hope an announcement to our country on the 16 of September does reveal where we are in as far as Porgera re-opening is concerned.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Status of Ramu 2 Project

Mr PETER NUMU – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for State-owned Enterprises regarding Ramu 2 project.

Mr Speaker I've been asking this question several times on this Floor with the previous minister and now the current minister.

(1) What is the current status of the Ramu 2 project? I wish to also thank the Prime Minister and the government for funding the Ramu 2 project and now after the signing I want to know the progress of the Ramu 2 project.

(2) Why is your department not communicating with my provincial government on a government level? And instead Kumul Consolidated Holdings is communicating with my provincial government. As the Governor, I want to communicate with your department and not with a company that is profit-oriented. So why is it that your department is not communicating with my provincial government on a government level.

Review Ramu 1 Project Agreement

(3) Ever since the establishment of Ramu 1 (Yonki) the provincial government and landowners have not benefited from any royalties as the natural resource owners absolutely nothing. Previous governors have raised that and this is probably the second time I am raising this question. I believe the Prime Minister when visiting Kainantu in Eastern Highlands, made a commitment to review the Ramu 1 project (Yonki)

06/01

Can you as the Minister under this government, push for the review of Ramu one or the Yonki dam project? We have been missing out a lot.

Can you tell my people when this review will be done, in light of how much energy this dam supplies to the highlands provinces but to date we have not been compensated well?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA –Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Governor of Eastern Highlands for his question. Firstly; I would like to say, unlike other Ministries, I do not have a department. I am responsible for companies owned by Kumul Consolidated Holdings. KCH reports to me as the Minister and I only have the political responsibility. If KCH communicate with various landowner factions and officers from that department, then it means that we are communicating with you at that level. So, I want to clarify here that I am not responsible for any department.

The important issue of whether or not the beneficiaries can be renegotiated or reviewed for our landowners of the Ramu one project or Yonki dam, most of you will recall, this project was initiated when PNG was not yet independent. There are a number of legacy issues which all affect our landowners. And the sad thing is that although the landowners around that area were able to give out their land. No authority has been given to our landowners.

As the Minister, I believe, it is not fair to treat our landowners this way. As we go through the process of trying to finalise the Ramu 2 project, I can assure the good governor that the Ramu one project will not be ignored. There will be a review done but we do not have the time to deal with all the issues, particularly the legacy issues but there will be a time and place for us to deal with them. What we are trying to do is accept and recognize them, put them aside and go onto Ramu 2 but, I assure you, that the government does recognize you with the important contribution you have made over the years. This Government will come up with a package that hopefully they will accept.

As the saying goes; you can't have everything, so, our landowners must also accept that. It does not mean this government will ignore the concerns of the landowners from Ramu one. In relation to Ramu 2, I can confirm for the Governor that the main pieces of the agreement have all been ticked off. In fact, the framework agreement between the state and the developer were signed early this year, in the presence of the Prime Minister and others at the Government House. The remaining issue of some kind of quasi form of guarantee to be issued if possible by the state.

What is happening now is that the Ramu two project is actually build -operate -transfer kind of project. That eventually ownership will then come back to the Government, through PNG Power, and some percentage to be paid to the landowners and the provincial governments, where the main transmission lines are to run through.

07/01

Mr Speaker, this government has decided that 40 per cent of the interest in the project will then be given to the two provincial governments and the landowners from those two provinces. Mr Speaker, this will be first of its kind in the history of this country. Ramu 1 did not have that and no other hydro-electricity project in this country did not have that as well. This will be the first one that will be signed under the Marape government.

Mr Speaker, I can assure the governor that our landowners from our two provinces as well as the two provincial governments will become equity partners. They will get 40 per cent of the interest.

We've never heard about provincial government and landowners having 40 per cent but this time around they will at 40 per cent. So that is what we are doing and in terms of finalising the various development forums, we are waiting for the proponents to come back to us regarding the finalisation of their financing arrangements in China. The project is estimated to cost about a US\$989 billion with no contribution by our government except that after the end of the build-operate-transfer arrangement, ownership will then transfer to PNG Power and the landowner and the build provincial governments at no cost.

There is an issue of some kind of guarantee to be issued by our government but that will be dealt with later on and the terms will then be discussed and ironed out.

Mr Speaker, all in all, the general terms of the agreement have been agreed. The major pieces have always been agreed that remains is guarantee to be given to the government for our contribution and then more importantly, the issue of whether or not Wafi-Golpu will then agree to purchase power from this project. I can say that there is good expression of interest from other companies such as Ramu Nickel who has indicated that they will purchase power from this project. So, to start with, there is enough demand that will underpin the economies of this project.

I think that Wafi-Golpu will give a positive consideration to power from this area because PNG Power is owned by our people and ultimately this project will also be owned by the provincial governments of Morobe, Eastern highlands and of course, the landowners.

So, Mr Speaker, it is a win-win situation for all of us so I can assure our governor that before we pass the Budget for next year this November, we should be able to make a major announcement.

Thank you.

Build Cancer Facilities

Mr RICHARD MARU – Thank you Mr Speaker, my question without notice goes to the Minister for National Planning.

Mr Speaker, we all are aware that cancer is now one of the leading causes of death in our country. The latest figures saw up to seven thousand patients dying every year from cancer which is curable if detected early and treated. However, Mr Speaker, our problem in the country has been, we never build the modern world-class facilities with equipment and the people to treat all forms of cancers in the country. As a result, only those who can afford are able to go overseas to get treatment and it's really a death license to all our mothers and sisters.

This problem has been going on and the former government in the Medium-Term Development Plan 3 decided to build two cancer hospitals within these five years during this planning period. As a result, funding was provided and both Port Moresby and Lae concurrently started two new world class cancer facilities. I recently went to visit the Port Moresby one and saw that an outstanding work has been done. They only need K50 million more to complete what will become a world-class cancer hospital as good as anything in Australia and Singapore. The same is happening in Lae.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, in our annual Budget, we are not funding that project when it should be a priority in the health sector.

Mr Speaker, my questions to the Planning Minister are:

(1) How committed is our government in completing these two world-class cancer hospitals in Port Moresby and Lae, which will also become teaching hospitals for our doctors at our medical school,

(2) Can you undertake to this Parliament that our government in the 2022 Budget will provide the K50 million required to complete the Port Moresby and the Lae Angau cancer facilities so that we can complete these two world class hospitals in this term of Parliament?

08/01

Mr RAINBO PAITA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Yangoru-Saussia for the two important questions.

Mr Speaker, specifically, he made reference on two facilities that we are building as entrenched in the MTDP 3 that is rightfully stated. I must make it known to this Honourable House that these are only plans but the biggest challenge is funding availability to start programs that we plan for.

Facilities like the cancer facility in particular, I think our government engaged with the Angau Memorial Hospital through the Health Department and specifically with the cancer facility in the Port Moresby General Hospital. I have had indirect communication with the CEO who has written letters expressing his main concerns that have been raised on this floor.

I want to make it known on this floor that the Government has remitted close to K20 million in partnership with National Planning and our engagement through social community programs under Kumul Petrol Holdings Ltd as well. I thank the Prime Minister and KCH of which KPH comes under for partnering with this major program that is stated in this program. To date, we have released K20 million.

The funding to complete the Port Moresby General Hospital is about K50 million for next year with the on-going work that has started.

Mr Speaker, I want to put on notice that when I became the Planning Minister, most major announcements that we've made especially in the previous Government, we have not funded those too. As we speak in the last two years, we have been able to retire outstanding commitments that were made by the former governments and we were able to put cash behind those projects like the cancer facility that we are building now and ongoing roads that we have given contracts without giving money to it. So, this is one of those facilities that is rightfully captured in the MTDP 3. We have been investing in stadiums, some roads that are important and some roads that lead to nowhere, but these major institutions and facilities have been forgotten for some years now.

So, I want to thank the Member for his question and give assurance that we have allocated funding captured under PIP. I understand that the hospital has requested K50 million

I can assure you in the next coming Budget we will at least allocate the amount the hospital has requested through Health Department to the National Planning Department for the two cancer facilities. Both, the Prime Minister and Health Minister are also aware to fund these facilities to be completed.

The issue is when we are diagnosed with cancer, we then go overseas but I think that will go to pass and with the state-of-the-art cancer facility in both provinces in Lae and Port Moresby.

The second question asks whether this will be funded in next year's budget. I want to assure you that we will re-tie that commitment that we have made with the Prime Minister as a Government to ensure that we have a world-class facility that can assist everyone facing issues with cancer.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Health – Report Recommendations

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Thank you Mr Speaker, since the Minister for Health is not present today, if I may, I want to direct these serious questions to the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, on 12 August there were several fatalities amongst some children who had been administered an anaesthetic through our hospitals. So, 7 individuals from 7 families have suffered as a result of this.

09/01

Mr Speaker, if we go back, there was a highly publicised effort by the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts into the National Department of Health. They spent considerable amount of time on issue of medicines that we procure for our people.

There was a presentation on the Floor and several recommendations which I believe, this Parliament took ownership of. My questions are as follows;

(1) Has the Cabinet taken a look at those recommendations and was it actioned through the Department of Health, in terms of the failures within the national health system?

Mr Speaker, the second one is in relation to efficacy and the standards of the medications that we receive.

(2) Can the Prime Minister tell the House, who is responsible for checking the medicines that we receive into the country?

(3) Do we have a laboratory somewhere? Whether in Port Moresby or Lae which we receive these medicines from the suppliers and put it through rigorous testing process to confirm, that Papua New Guinea is actually buying what we think we are buying on the label.

Mr Speaker, we have had serious issues with Borneo Pharmaceuticals which I believe is the supplier of these medications.

For some reason, Mr Speaker, when I was on the other side of the House, we asked serious questions about Boneo Pharmaceuticals. Now I am on this side of the House, I have realised that Borneo Pharmaceutical is somehow very popular with the Government regardless of which side you seat.

(4) Can the Prime Minister tell the people of Papua New Guinea, why we cannot break free from this partnership with the company that we are having issues with in regard to the supply of medicines in our country?

Before I come to my final question, there was a young child who passed away and I would like to also know from the Prime Minister in regard to the family of the child;

(5) What rights do they have to claim against the Health system and the State for the unfortunate and terrible loss of this young life; plus, the other six who were all impacted on the same day by the use of this sub-standard medication, that came through our sub-standard procurement system?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Governor for East Sepik for asking his questions, in regard to the recent incident that happened in the Port Moresby General Hospital resulting in deaths.

Mr Speaker, as I speak today I have yet to receive any reports though we have queried over it to the Health Minister for the Port Moresby General Hospital to provide us the report of the incident. So, that way we can find the right cause of those deaths whether, it was caused by the medicines or not.

I am going to commit my time to finding out about the incident so that I can get back to this Honourable House in the duration of this meeting. If the report is available then we can inform the country of what really went down.

We have also requested for investigation to take place and the report be made available to the Health Minister for the House and the country to be advised accordingly.

Before I answer his other two questions, I would like to apologise that the Health Minister is not present here amongst us, because he went to attend the death of his first secretary and we extend our condolences to the family on this untimely death of late Bernard.

10/01

But the Health Minister has been at work when we took office. In the meantime, I will answer his questions if you don't mind in sequence starting from the first one.

The issue on the Borneo Medical Supply is that when we took office on 30 May 2019, a contract was already issued for a three-year period for Borneo Medical Supply by the O'Neill Government. The procurement process commenced by then before we took office through

some of us had our own views on what needs to be done, these views were reserved for Cabinet's discussions, we had in relation to Borneo Medical Supply.

I also want to mention here that its not only Borneo Medical Supply that supplies medicines to the Department of Health. There are other pharmaceutical companies involved as well.

Our Medical and Pharmaceutical boards normally watch over the standard of these medicines and equipment that we use in our health sector as well as the procurement process which the Department of Health uses. And so, when we took office, we tried to review it and put a stop to the three-year contract but legally the contract was already issued and it must run its course.

Mr Speaker I want to clarify to this House and the Governor that the contract was already issued before we took office and we can't do much but live with it. The only avenue is for us to get drugs elsewhere.

Whilst on that, the Minister has done well by considering other alternatives to secure drugs instead of concentrating only on one source or rely on this old system because supply of drugs is a very important issue in the entire medical service delivery of our country. The Minister for Health is really at work by sourcing medicines elsewhere especially medicines of high standard globally so that it can be distributed to all the hospitals, health centers and aid-post around the country. It's not an easy task.

That's the reason why I thank the former Health Minister, Sir Puka Temu for proposing that we appoint a Secretary from outside and that has been approved by Cabinet in the current one.

But I assure the Governor that our Government has been working to see if procurement of drugs can be now done differently from what has been done in the past.

But the three-year contract has lived its life since 2020 to 2021 and with one more year to go, we are monitoring it carefully and will review it to see what best can be done with the one-year outstanding with Borneo Medical Supply.

In relation to those kids who lost their lives, I pass my sincere sympathy to their families. In fact, we all have kids and it's a very sad occasion. But the report will assist us to see whether it was a death that took place as a result of the administration of those drugs and medicines, workplace related issues or other causes. Until I have the full report from what actually happened, I am not in a position to inform the country on what needs to be done but once report is ready than I will respond at the earliest, thank you, Mr Speaker.

11/03

Supplementary Question
Quality Control Laboratory

Sir PUKA TEMU – Through you Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister is fully aware that there is a quality control laboratory here in Gordons. The issue is the lack of funding to meet global standards. Can the government make a commitment to properly resource this pharmaceutical laboratory here in Port Moresby?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I thank the Member for Abau for his supplementary question.

He is fully aware of that laboratory. Many times, it is not used by the Department of Health. I will need to check on these issues of concern as they are very important.

Mr Speaker, the Health Minister has been working on a new drug procurement system that will rise above the mess that we have in the Health Department. It is a problem that has been here for a long time and one that the Marape-Basil Government has inherited. This includes procurement of drugs from new and better sources. It may require us breaking away from bilateral partners. I am not ashamed to say that I subscribe to western standards of drugs and services.

Mr Speaker, I want the type of drugs that are being used in Australia to also be used in Papua New Guinea. This is the way we are moving because we want to get the best drugs for our people. It will need a total overhaul of the system. The Health Minister has been facing a strong systematic resistance in trying to break into that trade. However, we are still working and very soon he will announce the changes. We are working with some of our development partners who have been sourcing us vaccines for Covid-19. I have spoken to them to see if they can also source us medical drugs instead of us using this problematic and systematic sourcing of medical supplies.

Mr Speaker, we are looking into this holistically so that our people's health is not compromised. Unfortunately, the contract was awarded to Borneo. They have been a part of many contractors who have been supplying medicines to the health department. The Minister is looking at pulling them back and centralise in a manner it in which we can rise above all these business interest that are going on in the health department.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen – Minister for National Planning) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That some much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent me moving a series of motions relating to the appointment of Members to various Permanent Parliamentary Committees.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CITIZENSHIP – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Citizenship Act, 1975*, Mr Aiye Tambua, Mr Chris Nangoi, Mr Lohia Boe Samuel, Mr Meherra Minne Kipefa be appointed Members of Permanent Committee on Citizenship Matters.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS, ACTS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Standing Order 24(c)*, Mr Don Polye be appointed Deputy Chairman, Mr Aiye Tambu, Mr Chris Nangoi and Mr Philip Undialu be appointed members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Laws, Acts and Subordinate Legislations.

12/01

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND TOURISM –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That, pursuant to *Section 118(1)(b)* of the *Constitution*, Mr Robert Agarobe be appointed Deputy Chairman and Mr Benjamin Philip as member of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee of Culture and Tourism.

Mr RAINBO PAITA – Mr Speaker, I thank the Members who have attended the first Parliament Sitting this week. I see some Members who I thought had issues but are in good health, on both sides of the House and also our good shadow AG, thank you so much.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That Parliament do now adjourn.

Parliament adjourned at 3.05 p.m.