

FOURTH DAY

Friday 10 September 2021

DRAFT HANSARD

<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Page No.:</u>
QUESTIONS.....	1
Funding for Lutheran-run Health Services	1
Increase in Budget Expenditure	2
Police Department Plans and Strategies	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER	8
Bereina Rice Mill	8
Protect Border Provinces from Delta Variant.....	9
Call for Coroner’s Inquest	10
Supplementary Question.....	12
GRIEVANCE DEBATE	14
MOTION BY LEAVE	33
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – SESSIONAL ORDER – ALTERATION OF DAY AND HOUR OF SITTING.....	34
ADJOURNMENT	34

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

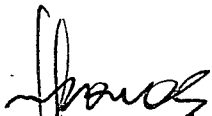
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HARRY MOMOS

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 10 September 2021

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 10.56 a.m., and invited the Member for Kokopo, Honourable Emil Tammur, to say Prayers:

‘Thank you, father, thank you Jesus, thank you Holy Spirit, God papa once again mipela come towards lon last day bilong dispela Parliament sitting lon Friday before the weekend. Father, as we are conferred here today, father mipela i tok thank you for the many blessings that you bestowed upon us, our families, our people in our provinces, electorates and the people of this beautiful country Papua New Guinea. Father, we are not perfect in your eyes. So many times, we fall short of your glory. Father, mipela sin man-meri bilong dispela graun but tru long mari-mari bilong yu, yu sawe forgivim ol sins bilon mipela. Father, as we go about the normal business of this day in this Honourable House, Father, mipela askim long guidance bilong yu long salim Holi Spirit long go pass long olgeta toktok mipela wokim inside long dispela Honourable House that mipela mas tok stret long ol samtin wer i concernim pipol blong dispela beautiful country of yours. Amen’

QUESTIONS

Funding for Lutheran-run Health Services

Mr CHRIS NANGOI - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of Sumkar.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the good hardworking Minister for Health. But before I ask, on behalf of the people of Sumkar, I welcome the new Member for Moresby North-West to the House.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is in regards to a headline on Monday’s paper which says; ‘Lutheran Church looks into shutting down the hospitals. Mr Deputy Speaker, the article states;

'four hospitals are facing shutdown by the end of this month'. They are; Braun Health Centre in Finschhafen, Etap Rural Hospital in Wasu, Yagaum Health Centre in Madang, and Gaubin Rural Hospital on Karkar Island.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Lutheran Church-run hospitals are located at our rural sectors and serve our rural population.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for example, Gaubin Rural Hospital in Karkar Island serves almost 100 000 people. This rural hospital is also running a CHW college that trains all the APOs and nurses.

02/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, their issue is; there is a decline of government support to the Christian health services. Since January to July, they were receiving their salary grants and not the operational grants. The operational grants are important to keep the hospitals functioning.

My question is; can you give assurance to our rural population and the hospitals operated by the Lutheran church that our government will put its support to address this issue and also the operational grants.

Mr JELTA WONG – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and I thank the member for Kandrian-Gloucester Open for his question.

Rural Health Services is a very important component in our health space. At this point of time, we have provincial health authorities that look after all our aid-post within the provinces, so once the letters are sent to the provincial health authorities then sent to us and then we act on those letters. It shows that the provincial health authority in the Madang Province has not done its report and I also an issue with the Provincial Health Authority of Madang which we are rectifying at this point of time.

There has been no cuts to the church health services, I find it hard to believe that the operational grants are not going down to the rural areas., I will look into this today with my secretary and I will get back to the member personally and will also address the House, if there has been cuts within the church health services.

Increase in Budget Expenditure

Mr JOSEPH LELANG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Treasury, Honourable Ian Ling-Stuckey.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I agree with the Treasurer's earlier comments that we need to protect the integrity of the Budget. While that is an important policy objective, it is incumbent of us to highlight some serious underlying problems that if not addressed, may derail that policy and the ability to create fiscal space and manage the budget as a primary tool to drive growth and development, now and into the medium term.

This is going to become more clearer when we compare the 2019 Final Budget Outcome report (FBO) and the 2020 FBO where consistent since 2019 and 2020. Only two expenditure items in the Budget, the Special Emoluments and Interest Payments on borrowing, absorbed a significant portion of the budget revenue, which amounts to 64 per cent in 2019 and 75 per cent of domestic revenue in 2020. I would like to stress and provide some statistics so that we understand the enormity of what this country is confronted with and which needs to be addressed immediately with urgency.

In the 2019 FBO, the total personnel emoluments were K5.4238 billion and interest rate was K2.1472 billion, when you add both it gives you a total of K7.571 billion with only two items.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as compared with the total domestic total revenues which excludes foreign grants of K11.9048 billion, the total personnel emoluments and interest payment absorbed 64 per cent.

03/04

This means that if you take away debt from the domestic revenue, you are left with K4.3338 billion for to the rest of government expenditures and priorities in 2019.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 2020 FBO, the total personal emoluments have increased by K400 million to K5.8315 billion and interest payment had increased to K2.1651 billion, giving a total of K7.9966 billion or K8 billion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when we compare this to the total domestic revenue in 2020 which is about K10.6683 billion less foreign grants, the personnel emoluments and interest payments alone, absorbs 75 per cent of our domestic revenue. In other words, when you take that away from your revenue, you will be left with K2.6717 billion to address all expenditure in both the recurrent and capital budget.

My questions are;

(1) Is the Treasurer aware that interest payments and loans and personal emoluments have risen from K7.571 billion in 2019 to K7.9966 billion or K8 billion in 2020?

(2) Is the Treasurer aware that the rise in personnel emoluments and interest payments has absorbed up to 75 per cent of our domestic revenue which has reduced the total domestic revenue that is available to fund other government expenditure priorities?

(3) Can the Treasurer admit that he has failed to address the expending side of the Budget and amidst dwindling revenue collections in the last two years he had resorted to debt borrowing as the only option to feed the rest of the government's expenditure plan?

(4) Can the Treasurer admit that such a policy of not addressing expenditure and more borrowing is an unsustainable policy, and may affect his policy protecting the integrity of the Budget?

This is something that we leaders should all be concerned about and so;

(5) Does the Treasurer have any plans to address this matter now and heading into the medium-term?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Shadow Treasurer for his very detailed questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I'll get him to put his questions on paper. They are very detailed questions and deserves a detailed response.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Police Department Plans and Strategies

Mr RICHARD MASERE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Before I ask my questions, on behalf of my people from Ijivitari, I wish all the members of this House including your office and people of Papua New Guinea a happy 46th Independence.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Police. I would like the Treasurer, the Ministers for Finance and Transport and Implementation to take note of the questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the last four and half years or during this term of Parliament, more so in the last 24 months; we have experienced a sharp spike in criminal activities; gun related hold-ups of businesses, arm hold-ups along the highways, car-jacking, raping of young women and a lot of traffic related accidents and many more.

These are alarming increases of incidences that require immediate attention from the Ministry and from the Papua New Guinea Royal Constabulary.

I understand that these problems are related to many underlining issues, but more so to with the induced economy brought about by the global health crisis.

04/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are:

(1) Can the Honourable Minister assure this Honourable House and the people of Papua New Guinea that the Police Force has strategy and action plans in place to mitigate these increasing crimes in PNG?

(2) If funding is the issue, what strategies has your ministry and Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary has undertaken to acquire funding from the Department of Treasury and the Department of Finance?

(3) Will your ministry and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary look outside of PNG for help? Can we look to Australia to support with AFP personnel if in-house funding is an issue?

(4) Is there a strategy to implement speedometers and random structured road breathalysing tests to address the serious road accidents that are happening across the country?

(5) Can your ministry and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary revisit the community-based constabulary or CBC program as it is generally known to address some of the criminal activities in our communities?

(6) Can your ministry and Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary issue a directive to the governing agents or agent to have a blanket ban on the production (*Inaudible due to technical failure*)

05/04

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, the system has been reconnected. I will ask the Minister for Police to give his response on the question asked by the Member for Ijivitari.

Mr WILLIAM ONGLO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Before I answer these questions, I want to raise some concern regarding the recent incident which occurred in Hagen.

I want to thank the family of Emelda Tupi, for not taking the law into their own hands but have come out to seek justice. Usually, up in the Highlands, with this kind of situation a tribal fight would have broken out but in this case, there was a protest demanding justice.

On behalf of the Police, when the case started our police were very brave and honest. There was a road block and our officers discovered the body of the late Emelda in the car. They rejected offers of bribery. We are doing our part by doing all the police report and the investigations. It went to court but I am not privy of the details but this incident has raised a lot of concern throughout the country.

We have been experiencing a lot of gender-based violence cases and our Police Force have been trying address this problem by setting up Family Sexual Violence Unit across the country in all our provinces. I know we are getting attacks from social media and mainstream news too, but we will find out what the real cause of the death. I want to thank the family who are seeking justice in a proper manner by the law.

Mr Deputy Speaker, back to the questions that were raised by the Member of Ijivitari. Firstly, the question in regard to the crimes and the strategic action the Police are taking; we are aware of all the seriousness and the rise in the crime rate across the country and we are working on it. We are faced with a lot of legacy issues but let me not blame each other or the governments of the past and current; law and order issues are everything. We should all be tackling law and order issues together.

As part of the police plans, we have a 10-year plan but with the problems we are faced with, there is not going to be an overnight solution. This 10-year plan is structured into our Corporate Plan and it is budgeted for K1.3 billion to go through the entire police system, increase the numbers, plan out into community policing and the reservists, and try to get the responsibility back into the provincial government system.

So, yes, we have plans and we intend to implement them in the next 10 years but we need full cooperation from everyone across the country. It can't be only the responsibility of the 6000 police men and women; we should all get involved in making our communities safe. Most of the time citizens create the problems and then they blame thy police.

We all have common sense so let's address policing and law and order by making it our business instead of making it the Police business.

06/04

We have issues at the administrative level and also in general policing. Our constitutional duties are to serve and protect. But in order to do this, we need to improve in the areas of procurement, logistics, forensics, and the entire 10-year plan will have to be beefed-up and modernized. So, I am sure that in the next 10 years we will get there but we need the support of the entire country.

In regard to the second question, Mr Deputy Speaker, we are constantly talking to Treasury and Finance and having meetings and dialogues. We are getting positive responses despite funding constraints, Covid-19 affecting us and the National General Elections coming up in the next seven months so we are requesting for entire funding for corporate plans, elections, and to manage Covid-19.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I assure you that our plans and programs have already being taken up by both Finance and Treasury and we are working on securing the funding to alleviate all these obstacles.

In relation to seeking outside assistance, perhaps from Australia, we have a program called the Australia-PNG Partnership Program. The issue was brought up here in Parliament so many times by the Governor of Enga and a lot of members here asking for outside help. The Australians are assisting with capacity buildings, infrastructure, upskilling, re-skilling and leadership training. There are a lot of partnership programs we are running currently with Australia. One of them is the Bomana training college where we now have training facilities, accommodation and ablution blocks. All the facilities have been upgraded which cost about K11 million funded by Australia-PNG Partnership Program. We have the station of excellence in Waigani and refurbishing of the National Forensics Centre, and installation of ID and fingerprint system.

There's a lot we are doing as a result of this partnership program, especially in training areas. But for them to come physically on the ground and be with our policemen and doing actual policing job is something that we need to address at a government-to government level. There are a lot of issues surrounding immunity and I've asked about it but we have not progressed further on the discussion, but as it is, yes, Australia helps us a lot.

We have an invitation from Korean Government as well to assist us in cybercrime area and security systems which we looking at so these are the two countries we are engaging with at the moment.

In relation to the fourth question on speedometers and roadside breath analyzers, we want to go to that level; this is about modernizing our police which involves collaboration between the Ministry of Transport and a lot of other stakeholders. We want to see that happen but again let's run through our programs to train people and upskill them properly before we can go into that area of training.

In response to the fifth question on re-visiting the community-based policing program to address petty crimes; yes, we are aware of that because we all come from a system where community-based policing was very active. However, over the years it had slowly died out but

fortunately we intend to reintroduce it in the corporate plan but this time we will not take from Waigani but partner with all the provincial governments so they must take ownership.

07/04

We all have received K1 million from PSIP. And I want to say here that our community-based policing is the most important because it really looks right into to our community, however, police cannot work alone. We need to have about 20-30 police personnel in one district and there must be a Court House and Correctional officers there as well, so that justice is seen to be happening there, right now there is nothing there in the districts.

Let us all work together, we have the MOU in place and community-based policing is the way forward come and let's talk and work together. We can handle it from Waigani as it involves a lot of stakeholders, financing and other logistical support. So, I look forward to seeing you all Members come to talk to us and I thank the Member for Ijivitari for raising this question.

The question on putting a blanket ban on the production of alcohol, which is causing a lot of serious accidents and other problems, is not in our jurisdiction. We only protect and manage not decide on closing production. And now that it has been raised, I hope the relevant department takes note.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I wish to inform the Members that Bishop Reverend Steven Bai Women's Ministry from the United Church of Papua New Guinea, Hela Region are present in the Public Gallery. On behalf of the National Parliament I extend to you a very warm welcome.

Bereina Rice Mill

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture. Sometime last year, he visited the Bereina district; where he visited the old rice mill and I thank him for asking some residents there to do some cleaning up around the old rice mill. He also invited me to his office and gave me a letter saying that the Department of Agriculture has intentions to establish a seed station for the region in Bereina.

Is that concept going to materialize and be implemented or has it been shelved and forgotten?

Mr JOHN SIMON -Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and the Member for Kairuku-Hiri for this question and I confirm that I visited the old rice mill in Bereina district and I gave money to the youths there to clean rice mill, which is run-down. And the funding that was given to them to clean the mill was from my own pocket. I had to do something because the mill was in the bush and run-down so I wanted to help. I told them to clean the place and that we will be back. The idea has not been shelved and there was funding allocated but due to a situation in the department we have not really looked into the rice mill.

After we settle this issue in the department, then I we will pursue this concept of the rice mill in Bereina.

08/04

We are working on reducing import and rice is one of the areas that the country continues to import. And in import replacement, we are looking at rice, beef and those areas to work on so Kairuku-Hiri and the plain that has a very big land, we would like to use it as well.

So, to answer the Member's question, yes, we are looking at it and as soon as funding is available, I will be in touch with you.

Thank you.

Protect Border Provinces from Delta Variant

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH — My question is directed to the Minister for Health. This is in relation to the Delta Variant that is believed to be present in our country today. The question is specific to the border provinces of Western and Sandaun where we sarge the border with Indonesia that is currently experiencing a huge search in Delta Variant.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as we know, Western province and Sandaun provinces are first line provinces of our country and if this Variant enters our country through the border provinces, God knows what will happen to the rest of the country.

So, what plans does the government have for the border provinces and, if there is a plan, what is the level of resources that this government intends to spend on border provinces in mitigating and containing the spread of this Variant in our country.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JELTA WONG - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the good Member for Aitape-Lumi for bringing this question to Parliament.

At this point of time as we speak, we have a surveillance team up in Sandaun and Western provinces; they go in right through the whole two provinces to ensure and to serve and to make sure and identify what we need to put in place in those areas.

So, when they come back on Monday, I should have a better view of what we can put in there. The surveillance team is also composed of some of our foreign partners as well so we should have a better outlook on this next week.

While I have the Floor, I really thank the Member for bringing this up. This Delta Variant is coming right across our country. The first best thing that we could do is to get vaccinated. I hate to ask a question in this Honourable House on who has been vaccinated and who has not, but it is up to the leaders and as responsible government to ensure our people know the fact. And the vaccination is there to prevent Covid-19 and this Delta Variant within our country.

So, with that, I ask all leaders to be responsible and talk to our people when you are in your electorates and ensure that they get vaccinated because the vaccines are now in every single province.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Call for Coroner's Inquest

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister for Justice and Attorney General and the Minister for Health to take note.

The questions relate to a matter that was raised in Parliament by both the Governor of East Sepik and the Member for Abau District. This is in relation to the unfortunate deaths of four of our citizens after been operated in the operation theatre at the Port Moresby General Hospital. PNG news 26 August 2021 quoted Dr Liko, Secretary for Health, alerting all provincial hospitals including all pharmaceuticals importers of the use of particular drugs called Propofol that they believe caused the deaths of those patients.

09/04

A news article that came from Loop PNG also said that they called a leading pathologist at PMGH advising the relatives of those deceased patients to delay the autopsy or post mortem and ask for Coroner's enquiry into the death. The pathologist said that these are no ordinary deaths and the implications are quite serious.

Mr Speaker, I know that the Chair responded this week that the Parliamentary Committees on Public Accounts will not pursue this matter.

As the shadow Minister for Health and also in my capacity as the Board Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee of Public Issues and Service Delivery on health matters, I think this is a very important case that must be pursued from this position.

We support the senior pathologist call at PMGH to delay the autopsy or the post mortem and to call for a Coroner's enquiry.

Mr Jelta Wong– Point of Order! Mr Speaker, these issues are being investigated at the moment, at the highest degree of our government. We are a responsible Government and we have to ensure that the investigations are done properly, asking questions in Parliament may preempt a division that can go wrong.

As the shadow Minister for Health, you should know that we have processes to follow.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, are you trying to answer the question? Your point of order is out of order.

I will allow the Member to ask his question and if the Minister has information then he can respond to his question.

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE– Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The *Coroner's Act 1953 of Section 7 (e)* states about such cases. When a patient goes to the hospital and gets injected then dies, the Coroner has the jurisdiction to investigate such cases.

1) Can the Minister direct the NCD Coroner to investigate the four deaths that just happened in our country?

2) Can a investigate be conducted as to how this vaccine came into our country and through which process did the vaccine come through?

3) Did it come through the pharmaceutical service's standards of the Department of Health or came in through another process into our country?

4) How did the vaccine end up in our public health system?

Once the coroner is done with the report then I will table it on the floor of Parliament for everyone to know.

Mr BRYAN KRAMER – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the member for Pomio.

I believe these questions were raised in this meeting in regards to a Coroner's inquest. The answer is yes,

This case is obviously an issue of national interest. I initially requested information from the Minister for Health and he provided a brief statement that actually answers some of those questions that you asked in relation to the actual batches on where they came in from and I understand initially it alleged to be a company called Borneo but from the findings it is not actually correct. But because this relates specifically to the Health Department and I will give the opportunity to the Health Minister for an issue of a public statement at our request, once we know the causes of the deaths and the issue of the Department to move to the coroner's inquest to establish the cause of deaths based on facts, the state will then consider whether it is a wrongful death on the side of the State and also the pharmaceutical company that provided those batches.

Those families can be compensated without taking the State to court. On a protective case, you win the case and still don't get paid. So, that regard I can give you a commitment by DJAG but we can't make specific comments but until we receive a full investigation but I welcome the request of the Coroner's inquest and we definitely will consider that and once we establish the facts from the investigation within this month then we can act on that regard.

Supplementary Question

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Deputy Speaker, to the Minister for Justice, when there is four people dying in the hospital, this is a serious issue!

If the system did not detect the defects in those pharmaceuticals that is causing and tormenting the hospital, it is a serious issue!

10/04

Can those people who are responsible be suspended from office or work so that investigation can be done?

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, with due respect to the Member for Kandep, an adequate response has been made on this matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to point you to *section 141* of the *Standing Orders*. When matters are implied or there is an inference without actual substance, especially on sensitive matters due care must be given.

Assurance to our country has already been given. Investigations are underway. We cannot make inferences whilst, awaiting full investigations on this highly sensitive matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to interject in case you may assist this Parliament in raising correct questions on sensitive matters that has imputations attached to it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, the Prime Minister's point of order is in order. I will not allow you to continue with your question.

Honourable Members, our Question Time has also lapsed and I will not entertain anymore questions. We will go straight into Grievance Debate.

Mr Peter O'Neill – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker on the matter raised by the Member for Kandep; we are talking about the deaths of Papua New Guineans.

The only investigation that can happen under law is a Coronial inquest. Not a departmental inquiry, not a government agency inquiry; coronial inquest over a death. That is what the Member for Pomio is asking. Why can't the government commit to that? What is there to hide?

A Magistrate who shall be appointed to investigate this matter, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Ialibu-Pangia, the Minister for Justice has replied that they welcome the question raised by the Member for Pomio and the Government is going to look into this matter.

Thank you for your point of order, but I will not entertain it, we are now into Grievance Debate.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That grievance be noted.

Mr BENNY ALLAN (Unggai-Bena) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My debate will be based on the Agricultural Sector.

I would like to start by thanking the current Government for funding the Agricultural interventions programmes. I thank the Prime Minister and his Government. I would like to say something on the two projects that this Government has started. I just heard the Minister talking about rice and I want to talk about that.

We spend about more than K600 million on import of rice and I do not know if the Minister is aware of that. Realising that, when I was with the former Government, we started a programme with the Philippines Government and the Prime Minister is aware of that.

In 2018, we signed an agreement with the Philippines Government and they wanted to assist us to develop rice in the country. This was all just to reduce the spending amount of importing rice and us producing it here in the country.

During the APEC meeting, we signed this agreement where any surplus rice that we produced, the Philippines Government would purchase them and this was a good agreement.

I thought the Minister would continue the good initiative that we started.

11/04

For some reason the seed market that we started in Eight Mile never got off and never got the much-needed support. The idea was to grow rice, collect seeds and distribute it in the Central Province as a start off and later to other parts of the country. It is a very good program and by now we should have been producing our own rice.

I do not know why the Agriculture Department has not continued this initiative. We are here talking about rice but we have not yet decided to cultivate rice. Whilst we were in office, Mr Deputy Speaker, we encouraged rice farming in your electorate in conjunction with Trukai Rice Industries. We had rice in supermarkets in Lae and Port Moresby. It was called ‘Hamamas Rais’. If you had been to supermarkets and seen this rice then it is a product of this government now in the Opposition Benches. I thought this program was going to be supported for the benefit of our country but nothing was done. I do not know the reasons but I am guessing it

could have been politics or something else but other than that the incumbent minister would have an idea about the reasons.

Mr John Simon – Point of Order! I know this is Grievances Debate but the former minister did not clarify that his Government never gave their component funding for that project. That is why the Philippines Government backed-off. He knows about that therefore he must be frank with his statement.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I want to remind Parliament and all Members of Parliament that this is Grievances Debate and all Members can express their grievances. As ministers, we might want to take note of the grievances and respond with your ministerial statements at a later date. Member, please continue with your grievances!

Mr BENNY ALLAN – I wanted to ask those things during the Question Time but we ran out of time. In 2018, we signed that agreement during the APEC Meetings but the government changed hands in 2019 but had we continued we would have funded that project. This is why I want to know why this project never got the support to continue. I think the Prime Minister will support the project.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are talking about the country's problems but this is one way out of one problem. If we produce rice than we can save that K600 million that we spend on importing it. This is why I am arguing that this is a very good project that we started and thus should have been given the much needed and necessary support. My concern is that they never continued with that project and for whatever reason, only the minister and his department are at liberty to know.

Secondly, another very good project that we started was a foreign investment in an integrated agriculture park in the Eastern Highlands to branch out to the Momase, New Guinea Islands to Central Province and would be based in the Western Highlands. This meant that this company would be spending about US\$540 million to establish a downstream processing plant. This would include all kinds of produce from vegetables to livestock and everything else that Papua New Guinea can produce. This down-stream processing products were to be sold to China.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the money was made available and all they asked for was land. In the handover-take-over, Mr Minister, I told you that this is a very good initiative. It is the market access for our people. We are here talking about finding markets for the produce of our

people, well this is one that we should have supported. This was a very good initiative that we should have taken seriously and given the much backing that it needed. Had we done so; we would be now doing down-streaming processing for all of our produce. They were going to downstream anything and everything from vegetables to livestock. I advised you and left the project in your hands when you took over office.

12/04

What has the government done for us, it is a good project and it was formulated in the best interest of Papua New Guinea.

When we talk about potato, kaukau, cassava etcetera, they wanted to buy anything that we were producing, they wanted to purchase for downstream processing the US\$540 million funding was made available for this project. They did not ask for any equity from the Papua New Guinea Government but only asked that land be made available to them.

Mr Minister, you have taken office so please take it on. If it wasn't for politics, we would already be exporting our vegetables to China. The Chinese said that all the produce from Papua New Guinea is like a drop in the ocean because it will be feeding only one province in China. We have missed this gold opportunity and soon we will be going into the elections. I am feeling sorry for the farmers

We were talking about using FedEx to export the produce, this was an opportunity where the farmers will be empowered to make more money.

Politics should never be pursued and the interest of the people must be prioritised. I hope that the new government will pursue this project.

The last point that I want to raise is in regard to systematic corruption in the Department of Labour and Industry and the minister was not present so the Prime Minister tried to answer it, then the minister rushed in to answer the question. Minister, when you are present stay on the Floor so that you can answer the questions being asked. I had it in writing and it was delivered to his office so I was expecting him to respond to it. There is systemic corruption when the senior officers conspire with the secretary and defrauds the State. Millions after millions spent and there is no outcome and this is a serious issue. This is where corruption starts so if there is corruption in your department, don't sit on it, act on it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable member, your 10 minutes of Grievance Debate has lapsed and there is a point of order from the Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr Tomait Kapili – Point of Order! For matters concerning ministers and their departments, it would be ideal if the question is asked during Question Time and not during Grievance Debate. I do not think it is proper for the Ministers who are performing out there.

The situation he is referring to was unfortunate because I just stepped out for a while and the good Prime Minister answered the questions.

Yesterday, I took possession of his letter and I will respond to him in due course.

However, as I have the Floor, may I suggest the Whistle Blowers to prove documented evidence in reference to allegations made against the ministers. You are protected by the *Whistle Blowers Act*

13/04

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – The Honorable members and ministers, as Deputy Speaker, I wish to make a statement regarding the Point of Orders made by our member from the Opposition.

I want to inform all members that if you are stating your grievances, please refrain from pin-pointing a specific as this can provoke a confrontation of debate on the Floor of Parliament. Therefore, grievances should be raised in general and in terms of what the government is embarking on. instead of pin pointing individual ministers that might provoke confrontations in our grievance debate.

Mr JOHN KAUPA (Moresby North-East) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to debate on law and order by going back to the questions raised by the member of Ijivitari. The honorable member asked the police minister a question regarding law and order but he did not have the jurisdiction to answer the question so, I want to further debate on that.

All the 89 districts are constituents of PNG here in Port Moresby. You all know the type law and order issues happening here in the city. Let's think what is the cause of it and we find out that they are consuming some type of alcohol.

Reflecting back to 10 years' time and the alcohol produced by SP Brewery there was quality check and control mechanism in place and the Department of Commerce and Industry, they verified the percentage of the alcohol. Like for a 330-milliliter bottle, it was 4.5 per cent alcohol.

Today, there are many factories in the city that produce alcohol and it's going back again to control mechanisms. Customs is collecting tax and not checking the alcohol content. The

very factories in front of our eyes are producing 45 and 50 percentage of alcohol. These are the main contributing factors of some of our law and order problems.

And we call it GBV where men cannot beat their wife but yet they are beating them. And in town you will see our young boys half naked begging for 30 toea and that's the cause of it all- alcohol.

At the district level I have engaged a doctor to find the root cause and then some said it's because of the Coffee Punch-Toveta. I wish to ask a question to all members of Parliament, look behind you, there are students with us today. When giving your child K20 lunch money you must be very careful because 250 milliliter Blueberry costs about K20 and its alcohol content is equivalent to a 12 pack of beer.

14/04

So, when you give lunch money to your children, you must be careful because they can purchase these beverages. I want this government to carry out quality checks on all the alcohol beverage manufacturers in the country.

This is to ensure the alcohol percentage in these beverages are produced to the standard required by the government. We are the government and we must maintain responsibility to control alcohol and tobacco production. We now have an influx of foreigners and they have purchased properties and fenced them and we do not know what goes on behind these fences and estates that are springing up around the city.

My fellow Members of Parliament, we are here to make laws and we must take a stand to control these things. If it is happening in the city and we are not doing anything about it, what will you do if it happens in your electorate and your province. Let us stand together and do something about it now.

Just yesterday, while returning with the Governor for NCD after attending the settlement upgrading program at 8 mile, we were informed of an ethnic clash at 9-mile market so, I had to call police to attend to that incident. What happened was a vendor from Goroka was selling at the market, a drunkard created disturbance in the market and a fight broke out and between the two ethnic groups of the drunkard and the vendor. This is why I am appealing to all members of Parliament to do something as we are now going into the 22nd century.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to speak on SME and micro-SME, I have funded trainings for women in my electorate. And some funds will be released at the end of this month to assist the women in SME. What saddens me most is that we are spectators to the foreigners that we have allowed to come in. The local; SME are taken up by them and what will our people do?

Jobs that our locals can do are being done by these foreigners, so where and how do our people progress economically. Am sure these issues have been raised before, what have we done and what are we going to do?

Honourable Members of this Parliament, we are here to make laws and implement them. What we see here in the city will eventually spread to other provinces if we do nothing about it now. Its s about time we make amendments to some of our laws and strictly implement them, I have lived most of my life in this city, in a settlement and the struggle for our local vendors is real.

15/04

We want to do it but disturbances are still occurring on the other side and a lot of problems continue to happen. It's about time we make some laws so that there are control mechanism in place. We want Labour to work with Migration, Migration must work with Commerce and Industry. Some are saying that those foreigners who do not know how to speak in *Pidgin* or English will not be allowed to enter our country, yet they come here and they are learning how to speak in *Pidgin* and English. What's happening here? This means that the control mechanism at our departments is not in order. We have to fix it.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA (Kiriwina-Goodenough) - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate. A lot of good debates have been made already and I want to make a short debate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know from hearing this morning from during the Caucus that the Prime Minister and a big delegation will be leaving for the US very shortly and one of the purposes of the visiting would be the COP 26. I would like to speak about the importance of mangroves and peat soils in our country because I come from a coastal area.

For the information of those who do not know what pit soils are and their importance, Pit soils are dry areas within the mangroves. These black soil under the mangroves store a lot of carbon emission. I say this because I was driving down to Napanapa Oil Refinery a few weeks ago, and I was surprised to see the level of development in that area. But, more so, the level of damage they have caused to the surrounding and especially to the mangrove forest in that area. And the concerns that I have heard a few months ago, was some people went to the traditional fishing ground within that mangrove area, especially the people of Porebada and they were actually chased out of the traditional fishing grounds.

My main concerns here on the mangrove is this, as former Forest Minister and one who has attended COP 21 in Paris, we spoke about the importance of conserving mangroves in coastal areas of Papua New Guinea and presented a paper. Very recently, about three years ago, there was a paper presented about the blue water concept in Fiji and Papua New Guinea was part to that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand here to debate on the park development that is happening in Papua New Guinea. The development that is happening in terms of gas and oil price within the Papuan Coastline. I hear there is exploration happening in Abau and Aroma Coastline

16/04

Those areas have vast areas of pit soils and mangroves and when I look down here at Napanapa area I see the fast developments coming up.

The destruction of mangrove areas, makes me wonder if the Department of Environment and Conservation has incorporated the designs and development to conserve this fragile ecosystem or did, they not? If we haven't built or designed around those areas, we have to set some precedence that needs to be corrected. I say this because, most of us on this Floor of Parliament have flown between Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Singapore. And, when you fly over Indonesia, you see fire and smoke, fire that has been burning for the last 15 to 20 years. One would wonder what is happening there. The fires are burning pit soils that have been burning for years. And this eco-system has developed and evolved in the last thousands of years and it took man to destroy them in the last 10 years and these fires have been burning continuously.

We must be careful here our rich mangroves and pit soils store man-made ammunitions; Pit soils and mangroves actually store 10000 cubic meters of ammunitions more than the general forest that we talk about.

It is very important that we in this House, especially all Members take note conserving these mangroves and pit soil areas and that we have to be serious about them. One thing to take note of is, the natural buffer, the mangroves provide for us when there is a cyclone, high waves and strong winds, mangroves provide buffer for us.

And it is very important that we take note of this in our development plans so that we do not destroy what nature has provided for us for the last thousands of years. If we are not very careful and in the name of development, destroy these natural buffers.

when strong winds come, it will flatten our nation and we have to take serious climate change issues in this country. Climate change is real, as real as Covid-19 and if we are not

careful, we will experience strong winds, heavy rain and storms and it will destroy our shorelines.

People will start to move inland and land will become scarce, if we are not careful in protecting buffer's that nature has created.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am speaking Napanapa because it's in visual. In the past, the local used to fish, and the fish go and spawn, and that's where crabs are found and even a sight for birds, and today, when you go there, you find nothing.

I am speaking for the protection of mangroves right throughout Papua New Guinea because I come from an area that is protected by mangroves and I have seen the importance of mangroves, next thing is the fast-flowing currents that we have in this country, need to be seen and taken seriously.

17/04

The next issue is the fast-flowing rivers in the country. They carry a lot of emissions and they store them deep down in ocean depths. Again, I am saying this because more than 50 per cent of our emissions in the atmosphere is captured and stored in the deep ocean. And the blue ocean concept must be taken very seriously. I hope the Prime Minister and his team as they go down to attend COP26 especially, the Minister for Climate Change to take serious notes of the papers that will be presented.

If we participate in those programs, importantly the world must compensate for preservations of our natural resources. They must take note. We must not only save it for the benefit of the world, but we must also benefit with the natural resources that we have.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me use the last minute of my debate by wishing all the leaders of this House, the people of this country and my people of Kiriwina-Goodenough, a happy celebration over the Independence of our country. Take care and may the Good Lord be with you, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ (Central) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving the people of Central Province an opportunity to participate in this debate.

I would like to take this opportunity to share on the paper which I presented in 2018 at the Governor's conference, in Madang. The submission was on priority economic policy agendas for Central Province, with significant relevance to other provinces and Papua New Guinea as a whole.

The appreciation of uniqueness of Central Province and its challenges. In 1883, the British enacts the territory as British New Guinea and Port Moresby was established as its administrative capital. At that time the present Government was located at Konedobu on the hill, overlooking the Fairfax Harbour as it is known as the Government House and the Central Province Headquarters today.

After the defeat of the Germans in the great war, the league of nations gave Australia the responsibility to govern and administer the two different territories separately, up until the end of the Pacific war. When the two territories were merged as one territory of Papua and New Guinea, under a *Trusteeship Act of 1948*.

The trusteeship existed up until the 25 August, 1975, when the Constituent Assembly of Papua New Guinea passed a National *Constitution* which became effective as of 16 September, 1975.

Port Moresby was claimed the Capital City of Papua New Guinea. The city was initially managed by an interim council, which was then headed by the City Mayor.

Not until recently, it was elevated to a provincial status as the National Capital District by the *National Capital District Commission Act 2000*, as amended from time to time. This Law is outside ambit of the *Organic Law on Province and Local-Level Government 1995*.

This structurally and functionally suffocated the Central Provincial Government and has resulted insignificant dis-advantages and detriment. Central Province nevertheless, continues to make unjustified sacrifices and sufferings at the expense of the people, their land, water, resources, livelihood, culture and identity.

Significant policy implications and respective disparities over the years created challenges facing the Central Provincial Government and the people of Central Province. The Central Provincial Government Headquarters in Konedobu has become an isolated seat of government without a provincial township and instrumentalities attached to it. Therefore, it cannot practically and meaningfully serve its purpose as a mandated Government instrument to serve the people of its province.

Central Provincial Government lost political and administrative jurisdictions over the city of Port Moresby, as well as critical socio-economic asserts and infrastructure. There was no consideration for any long-term policies, plans or programs to mitigate impacts on the economy and socio-economic development of Central Province. As a result of losses suffered through expropriation and urbanisation effects of Port Moresby by the State; in relation to creation of our National Capital District and our National Capital District Commission.

Co-influence of cultural diversity due to increasing population, demand for livelihood resources for food, water, shelter, land, cash and employment opportunities. And the intense level of competition for space, resulting in tensions, conflict and disharmony with the indigenous people of Central Province and rest of the settlers from around the country.

18/04

Visibility of Central Provincial Government administrative identity and pursuance of development goals and pathways and imminent absence of a very clear state policy over four decades to help Central Provincial Government recoup from structural stresses and socio-economic dilemmas mentioned above remains the greatest challenge facing Central Provincial Government and the Central Province as a whole today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, nevertheless, given the very long history of Port Moresby, one can always value and appreciate its history significance and the role it played on the process of development of Papua New Guinea.

The new strategic direction. I have a vision and plan for Central Province. The essence of my policy direction is to bring back Central Province into the picture. This is essentially entailed in the theme 'Our Identity, Destiny Towards a Smart and Sustainable Future' It is both significant and crucial.

It is significant because it will inspire our people and government to work towards a shared vision, mission and goals whilst at the same time guide us towards a new pathway which Central Provincial Government will lead. In addition, it is crucial because we have reached a point in time where both the identity of our people and its provincial identity or destiny is at stake. It is about our basic human rights, constitutional rights and democratic rights and freedom being determined and challenged.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the vision is, a smart Central Province aiming for professional excellence, economic prosperity and social justice to achieve a smart, productive and sustainable future. The goals are; ensuring service and economic investment to produce adequate socio-economic spinoffs and benefits to enhance people's livelihood at the ward and village level. Consulting people and getting their consent and then organising them into land groups or ILGs and cooperative societies to process or facilitate, especially customary land access for small scale to large scale agriculture or commercial agriculture.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to driving economic affairs through Central province business arm in partnership with the state, landowners and developers and to address and

reduce chronic economic losses to the revenue and the economy of the Central Province as a result of expropriation of Port Moresby and its economic assets and interests.

Our way forward for Central Province; I intend to create economic stimulants by establishing a critical economic infrastructure to stimulate business and economic growth at strategic locations throughout the province. However, for the purpose of this, I will present an economic policy agenda with significant policy implications to other provinces and PNG economy and development progress.

A parliamentary petition; the Parliament in its wisdom endorsed a petition I presented on behalf of the people of Central Province, especially the Motu-Koitabuans on 1 June 2018. A select committee was supposed to be established and announced to make inquiries into all issues affecting my province. This will be the only time in 43 years since PNG Independence and 135 years since the British annexed Port Moresby and the Territory of Papua.

In a nutshell, Central Province is the only province now without a provincial capital, a sea port, an airport and all other economic infrastructure and assets which provincial governments make their revenue. More so, it is the only province without a provincial identity hence, before I can make and talk about my vision and plans, I have to provide a political direction to my province and my people to see and have confidence in my leadership.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the petition was a vehicle to address all our issues affecting the Central Province of which some are a province within a province where National Capital District exists within the Central Province. There is no clear land boundary between NCD and the Central Province or electoral boundaries. There is a constant encroachment of Port Moresby City into the Central Province. There is no proper compensation for losses of land and use of water and land resources of Central Province. There is also loss of economic assets such as sea ports, airports, and commercial centres.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is also no proper government policy and programs to mitigate and compensate for structure losses and impacts of Central Province when Port Moresby was taken over. We do not have a clear-cut role in the governance and management and the affairs of Port Moresby City when we are the rightful landowners of the city.

Papua New Guinea's wealth is our people and our land. Around 80 per cent of our people live in the rural areas and 97 per cent of our land is customarily owned. These are the two most valuable resources that make up this beautiful country called Papua New Guinea. It is of paramount importance that native people of Papua New Guinea and their customary land be protected at all costs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I propose the Ministry for Native Affairs to be responsible for awareness, consultation and planning of not only the protection of our native land and its people but also for ongoing research on the idea of modelling changes to our way of living. It is also to provide for better social security. Security is important and should be part of ongoing research and development of our land for the purpose of commercial use while allowing for state agencies for sustainability, conservation and in consultation with other state agencies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, strict guidelines need to be established so that in the process maximum protection and benefits are achieved for the people as we transcend into the future. Our future should never be compromised for commercial gain. Moving forward, we need to ask ourselves the question of how do we want to see ourselves in the future? How do we achieve that with minimum destruction to our culture and traditions and our environment and our heritage? How do we maximise on the resources we have that others don't have? How do we drive patriotism and the love of our country so that our children can walk around and be proud of who we are? What can we do to be that country that everybody wants to visit but is only accessible to those that meet the strict criteria that we set?

Mr Deputy Speaker, the world needs to recognise us as being special in our identity and our pride. Papua New Guinea is the last frontier with 800 different languages and cultures that are still practiced today. It in itself is one of the greatest wonders of this world that can be showcased.

19/04

We can show the rest of the world how 1 000 different tribes managed to live and survive over 4 000 years. We have managed our tribe during conflicts and traded with each other in our own unique and special ways.

This is where our strength is and can be a world attraction and in doing so preserving our culture and evidence while at the same time, we are bringing that national pride and spirit back to our people.

I am Papua New Guinea, I do not want to be known to the world as from the oil and gas or agriculture or fisheries nation as we are all the above. I would rather be appreciated as one of God's greatest handywork.

The views and participation of native people in the development of Papua New Guinea. Land, water, marine and air resources is paramount. This is in accordance to the second directive goal and principles that call for equality and principles –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, the Chair, interrupts you here and informs you that if your speech is long, you can seek leave of the Chair to incorporate it into the Hansard.

Mr ROBERT AGAROBÉ – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will be ending very soon.

Since Independence, the values and traditions in accordance with PNG customary ways have never been given greater prominence.

The approaches and experiences to accommodate native form, styles and structures inland and resource development have been minimal and in ad hoc fashion. The diversity of PNG enjoyed in the sovereign unity speaks volumes about this in its real capacity which must be recognised and properly harnessed.

Thank you.

Mr JAMES DONALD (North-Fly) – We all come here as a sovereign nation and everything rises and falls with leadership so my debate this afternoon is based on the Reform on leadership of our Nation and how it is governed.

There is a Chinese saying that say, “Fish from the head”, and I believe that this is true because everything rises and falls with leadership.

Now, we need to fix the head first and it is us who represent our people. If we govern the nation well everything will fall into place and our people will not suffer. That is my view.

I raised this debate because of the system that we use to get here and form the government and I think that we should change it and the most popular one is the way we elect our prime minister.

Yesterday, the shadow minister touched on this debate a bit and he said that we should allow the prime minister to be elected by the people. This is a view that we should seriously take into account.

I say this because his focus must be on steering the country and he must not worry about his ministers or coalition partners. And if we are to continue to follow this path we will not go anywhere.

20/04

Today, you see we play politics every day. We are following the Prime Minister around and he feeding us with little funds and our people are suffering because he’s concentrating about surviving votes of no confidence. The 18 months grace period and our *Constitution* is

rubbish. That's what I think and all underlying issues the common denominator sitting on top we need to fix that please starting next term 2022 going forward.

If it means 10 years going that part of amending these *Constitution* so that let the people elect the Prime Minister and we will not be worried about that because we will not spend money unnecessarily. We exactly got 29 more years before we arrive at Vision 2050. Late Sir Michael Somare set it and some of you Founding Fathers are here and you know the pathway for the country you set for us.

But I tell you we are getting nowhere resources are waisted because the Prime Minister is busy running around spoon-feeding everybody just to impress everyone. A country will be on the rise if the country's leadership is very strong if, Prime Minister is taking a bold stand, focus and is not disturbed by anyone. It will only concentrate on the work.

Mr Patrick Pruitich – Point of Order! Imputation the Member is saying is that, the current Prime Minister is moving around everyday dishing out money to Members of Parliament. Be careful on what you say you have the right to express what you want on this Floor of Parliament but be careful on imputation.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr JAMES DONALD – Mr Speaker, while appreciating the learned Member for Aitape Lumi, it's an ongoing thing. I am not implying to current government or whatever. I am saying that's the underlying denominator, that's affecting our country, we going to think out of the box in order for you wish to join the complete circle you have go to come out of the box and think different, we can't continue to go on like this forever. This is my concern because we are just talking and nothing is happening.

Some of us we need to think that way, when can we make such amendments and decisions. A country, if it needs to steer a different way, the captain and everybody will need to think different in order to save everybody.

Mr Speaker, I come back again Vision 2050 we've got 29 more years as six terms of Parliament. How do we arrive there, what does the Vision 2050 says? The Vision 2050 says everybody be wise, smarter, healthier and everything. Yet today every one of us are very poor.

The Prime Minister for instance; today said that no one will be left behind, everybody will make PNG a rich black Christian nation but we are not going to get there quickly because we must think differently, I think as leaders at that top level we have got to think different.

We cannot continue to sit like that to be spoon-fed what will we do in the coming years with resource allocation. I think entertaining certain individual is just rubbish. We must think for the country and make a bold decision and develop the entire country. If it means doing that for that province, do it, and don't spoon-feed everybody and there's no impact. Such bold decision needs to come.

Mr Speaker, I am putting it on record that I will advocate this reform starting next year and confirming that I will return my seat. When I come back next year advocate on this agenda

21/04

And if I return next year, I will continue to advocate on this agenda and we must continue to talk about this reform on the election of the Prime Minister and let him concentrate on his work as the head of this country. If the Prime Minister puts his foot down, there will be work done; we need to take that path or we will continue to spoon feed ourselves and never get anywhere.

Mr SALIO WAIPO (Angoram) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. I want to remind all of us present here that we must acknowledge our people who have given us the mandate to be here in this Parliament. We must have respect for each other when we are given the opportunity to speak. No one is mandated above the other. We have been given the same mandate to be here.

So, we must respect each other in our actions and business we conduct here in this Parliament. Our people gave us the mandate to be and what we do here is for the common good of our people and the bottom line is we are representing our people. We are not in the classroom to create division amongst ourselves. We are here to make decisions and represent our people. I am not happy as to how we carry on here in Parliament, because we are entrusted with a duty to represent our people but our actions show that we are divided.

Of, course there are two sides to everything and we have the Opposition and the Government but we must be mindful of why we are here. Let us know we do not represent ourselves. If we have personal issues let us not take it out on the Floor of Parliament. If I have a personal issue with a fellow Member, I will not fight it out in the Chamber, I will go and see him, he is your brother. Let us leave the Chamber to discuss things and issues that will benefit the people whom we represent. We are here to work together. It should not be about individual provinces, electorate or region.

And also, when we are trying to make a point on certain issues, let us refrain from passing the buck, as to who should have and done this and who did that. And especially when handing over portfolios make sure you look into the details of what you are getting yourself into. Check out the ministry the committee or the responsibilities of the task you are being given.

Go through them and if the need arises that you should have a say do it, talk to who you are taking over from or giving the job to so you have a good understanding. Overall let us be professional in our work. Let us work together and help our country to move forward. I apologize if I spoke harshly but I believe it is a better way, let us put our personal differences aside. Let us also put our hands together and help this Parliament. A few weeks back the audio system in here was not working properly, let us come forward and offer to help this place. This is our meeting place, let us help to make it better. And let us support each other. Aside from Parliament, there are other issues that we can help each other with. We have law and order, education, health and the list are endless, in our electorate, community and region. No one can do anything alone, let us work to help each other. We have these issues, let us ask what is the way forward.

22/04

It is like when the sun sets, you must apologies to your fellow brother to stand united and work together.

All of us are intelligent and we have different professions obtained from different schools and we have the knowledge. We can help one and other to run this country. No man is an island, your thoughts are good, the Opposition is contributing good ideas here. The government is also contributing good ideas here as well. Lest share our ideas together for the common good of our people. I think it's a good idea to work hand in hand.

I am not saying any bad thoughts here, but I think the better way to get this country going forward is through working together. If we work together, our people will work together. There is a lot of issues and we cannot handle every issue at once and make things as a miracle. But we have good ideas, lets share it together. This is my little suggestion and grievance I would like to share with to us. Many times, when we sit, this side and other side of the House must work together. We must have smiling faces when we walk into this House and drive this country forward.

So, I am happy to see the good leaders here at such a time like the Government Whip is watching us sitting here till evening. That's the way, we are mandated by our people to represent them on this Floor. Cancel all your businesses. If you have other issues or meetings

outside, cancel them. Sit on the Floor of Parliament, become legislators and pass some good laws which will benefit our people in this country.

So, I am really happy and say thank you to leaders who are sitting here in both sides of the House including Governors, Ministers, Prime Minister and Speaker. Mr Speaker, thank you very much for your time, you also are a Member and you have your electorate to be concerned about, but you continue to give us time. Let us follow the same suit and do the right thing for the good of this country. All of us are good Members, no one is bad, but only God will charge us.

Thank you, God bless.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) — Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to make a few comments to add to the grievances debate.

I want to endorse what Member for Angoram just said. I think he made some very good comments and I also like to commend our good Member for North Fly who made some good suggestions that many of us here support.

I want to clarify the statements made sometimes this week by the Member for Ialibu-Pangia, the Honourable Peter O'Neill who referred to the review of the public service payroll and made comments that it was to be done next year or in the future.

I want to clarify as the Chairman of the Public Sector Reform Committee that actually the review of the public service payroll will commence this year. In fact, I would commend the former Prime Minister because he initiated that review. Although, it took some time because of third-wars or wars between various government departments as to who would lead, who is responsible, who would frame the terms of references whether it was lawful or not and etcetera.

The Committee under my Chairmanship came to understand that this was a very important matter that needed attention. And as a result, someone owe these departments to sit at a round table and find a pathway forward so that we could address this matter. The public service payroll blowout was every year quite significant. Hundreds of millions of kina were disappearing into places unknown and this review was well over due.

As a result of our efforts, the review has commenced. All government departments are now on the same page and that review proper will commence once final documents are signed by a reputable accounting firm that has been engaged to carry out this review and it will commence before the end of this year.

I just want to clarify that. Thank you, Mr Speaker. On another matter, I want to clarify a report that appeared on the 8 of September on the front page of *Post Courier* in regards to a project occurring in my province.

23/04

With due respect to our media who do a magnificent job of keeping us in line, sometimes they get carried away and sensitises their reports but I do commend them because they play a vital role, for instance, their publication on who's present during Parliament Session. I must inform you that all of us have stepped up as a result of that and though some of us may not be happy with what they are doing in terms of keeping our people informed about who's present, it still plays a vital role in improving efficiently.

But in this report, they failed to detail the period of time, when the supposed contract was carried out or implemented. That period of time is when we investigated between the period of 2007 and 2012.

This is in regards to a report that appeared on the 8th of September which reported that a project worth K2.7 million had never been implemented in my Province.

The fact of the matter is that the National Department of Health was completely responsible for this project. That is what we investigated and found out and in fact, it is procurement committee within the Department, the same procurement officer that has been exposed in a PAC inquiry, which I was the deputy chairman of.

I would like the Minister of Health to take note because the same procurement committee or elements of this is still around.

Mr Speaker, I wanted to make this clarification and also clarify that there were no Members involved in that particular project. This was a project of the National Department of Health. We are going to get the names of those persons involved and present them to the Minister and Police personnel and also assist the Justice Ministry who have undertaken this very important effort to carry out this audit.

In fact, I would like to go a step forward and say; Minister for Justice, you should make sure that these reports are published on all our dailies so all the project in our country, wherever they are listed and those responsible to be named, so the people of this country would know what is happening through public funds and taxes.

And all of us, if we are responsible, in some way or another, we must rectify these situations.

The National Department also awarded a contract through that same corrupt procurement committee that somehow existed to this day, the awarded contract was for the building of a medical storage facility, and also the contract was awarded to a male nurse that has no building experience and was living in a settlement and was paid for nine years even though he has never been to work, he was running around building contracts with no experience. And, he had never built a chicken shed but he was awarded these contracts.

Mr Speaker, those are the two points I wanted to rectify before the Chair. And finally, I want to make some comments in regards to a matter that I feel needs more attention from all of us and I commend the Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough, he is not very concerned about the environment but I'm happy to see this, he is actually correct. We have to pay attention to what's happening to our environment. Especially now, we are now living in the life after 50 age. That is what the geologist name as they age, the effort of man and their activities have an impact on earth. Throughout the world we are seeing a lot of issues as a result of this after 50 age.

The effort of man and his activities and on how they are impacting the earth and on nature. We must pay closer attention to this because for as long as we are connected to nature, we'll be fine but as we drift away and we convert our natural environment into un-natural environment and even un-natural food and even substances that we consume and giving rights to our natural thoughts.

24/04

We are home, we are on the island that is home to the third largest rainforest in the world. This has been said many times.

We still have 70 per cent forest cover, but for how long. At the rate we are going? It is frightening to imagine what Papua New Guinea will be like in the next 20 years. For instance, the SABL Inquiry where 50 square kilometres of land was illegally taken by various foreign companies.

That inquiry costed K13 million which was initiated on 29 June, 2011, by the Prime Minister Sam Abal at that time. There were 75 specific SABL's to review and only 44 were actually reviewed, because only 44 were presented on the report; presented by the two of the commissioners and the third commissioner did not present his report. Out of those 42 that were reviewed, 38 were deemed illegal and those SABL's are still operating.

Now they are operating under Forest Clearance Authorities. Those same companies are still involved. That report is with the Justice Ministry. I would like the Minister for Justice to take note and take immediate action in regard to this report.

Whilst we are concerned about our natural environment, this characters that were responsible for destroying it are still out there destroying it at will. This is totally inconsiderate to our future.

So, I would like these three particular ministries to please take note of the statements that I have put forward or well these two Ministries, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health to address these matters.

Mr Speaker, with that I thank you for giving us time to be able to present our comments, statements and grievance debates and I wish you all a Happy Independence, thank you.

Motion – That Grievance debate be noted – agreed to.

Mr Powes Parkop – Point of Order! Today is Friday and we have not suspended *Standing Orders* and you are allowing Parliament to sit. Can we formally suspend *Standing Orders*?

Mr SPEAKER – That is what the Prime Minister is going to do now.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Prime Minister) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, before I move the motion, let me thank all the Members of Parliament from both sides of the House for sitting right through the session.

As I said earlier this week, many times we get accused of working short hours. But, far from the truth and contrary to that, we all give long hours in service to our country. I thank each and every one of you for sitting right through this session.

Mr Speaker, the motions that I am trying to move firstly, I move that Parliament would have considered sitting beyond 1.00 p.m. today

Secondly, the Parliament meeting beyond 1p.m today and secondly, I propose that the Parliament meet on Monday 13 September 2021 starting at 10 a.m.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – SESSIONAL ORDER –
ALTERATION OF DAY AND HOUR OF SITTING**

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) The Parliament meeting on Monday, 13 September 2021 at 10 o'clock and
- (2) the Parliament considering its business on this day in the following order;
 - (a) Prayers
 - (b) Petitions
 - (c) Notices
 - (d) Questions Without Notice (45 Minutes limit)
 - (e) Papers
 - (f) Ministerial Statements
 - (g) Government Business having precedence on the day; and
- (3) A Minister moving for adjournment at anytime during the hours of meeting on this day.

Mr John Kaupa – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, since it is the 46th Independence Anniversary of our country, I suggest that when we come into our 'haus man' on Monday, we should show the true colours of our country. Mr Speaker, you have the authority to advise us on this before Parliament adjourns today.

Mr SPEAKER – Thank you honourable member for that point of order.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn to Monday 13 September at 10 a.m.

The Parliament adjourned at 1p.m.