

**FIRST DAY**

**Tuesday 12 October 2021**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

### CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

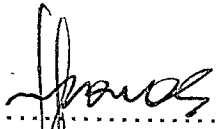
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Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A1-23 (next to the Security Control Room).

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.



.....  
HARRY MOMOS

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

## **FIRST DAY**

**Tuesday 12 October 2021**

The Parliament at 2 p.m., according to the terms of Resolution of Monday 13 September 2021.

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 2.40 pm., and invited the Governor of Manus, **Honourable Charlie Benjamin**, to say Prayers:

‘Dispela afternoon as mipela ol lidas ikam long Parliament sesen, mipela askim presens bilong yu istap wantaim mipela. Givim mipela special wisdom, knowledge na understanding long lidim ol pipol bilong yu na kantri bilong yu. Givim special luksave long Prime Minister, givim em wisdom, knowledge na understanding, na tu givim long Opposition Leader. Stap wantaim mipela olgeta tete as mipela go insait long dispela hour bilong meeting bilong mipela. Em prei miplela askim long nem bilong yu’

### **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 today and resolved that the *National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)* Television and Radio would broadcast and televise live the extended coverage of the whole Parliament Proceedings as part of its community service obligation to the citizens and stakeholders. This is also extended to other television 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 I have in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution* certified the following four (4) Acts, as having being made by the National Parliament.

- (1) *Medical Registration (Amendment) Act 2021*;
- (2) *Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) (Amendment) Act 2021*;
- (3) *Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) (Basil Protection Compensation) (Amendment) Act 2021*; and
- (4) *Public Services (Management) (Amendment) Act 2021*.

## DEATHS OF FORMER MEMBERS – SIR PITA LUS AND SIR SILAS ATOPARE

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament of the deaths of:

(a) Sir Silas Atopare, GCMG, knight of St John, on 22 September 2021; a former Member for Goroka Open Electorate in the Second National Parliament from 1977 to 1982. He served as Minister for Works from 1981 to 1982. He also served a term as Governor-General of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea from 20 November 1997.

(b) Sir Pita Lus, OBE, Kt on 1 October 2021; a former Member for Drekikir-Worsera Open Electorate in the First House of Assembly from 1963 to 1968. He was elected to the Second House of Assembly for the Maprik Open Electorate from 1968 to 1972, re-elected to the Third House of Assembly/First National Parliament from 1972 to 1977, Second National Parliament from 1977 to 1982, Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987, Fourth National Parliament from 1987 to 1992, Fifth National Parliament from 1992 to 1997 and the Sixth National Parliament from 1997 to 2002.

He served as Minister for State from 1973 to 1975, Minister for Police from 1975 to 1976, Minister for Correctional Services and Liquor Licensing from June 1976 to August 1977, Minister for Commerce from August 1977 to November 1978, Minister for Commerce and Industry from November 1978 to January 1980, Minister for Works and Supply from January to March 1980, Minister for Administrative Services from

1982 to 1985, Shadow Minister for Transport and Works in August 1982, Minister for State from July to December 1997 and Minister for Transport in July 1999.

**02/01**

He also served as Chairman of the Law and Order Committee, Member of Privileges and Public Accounts committees in July 1998, member of the Standing Orders and Public Accounts Committee in March 1998 and Assistant Speaker from July 1998.

*All Members stood in silence in their places as a mark of respect to the late gentlemen.*

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Covid -19 Cases Increase**

**Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Health regarding the increase in Covid-19 cases. Today, about 22,000 cases have been reported in Papua New Guinea, from which 245 have died. We send our condolences to those who lost their loved ones to this pandemic.

(1) Can the Minister for Health inform us, from the 245 who died, how many were fully vaccinated yet succumbed to the illness and died and how many died without receiving the vaccine?

(2) Of those severe cases admitted at the Hospitals, how many are fully vaccinated and how many are not?

(3) Where is the most common transmission occurring in the city, is it in the communities, schools or work place? Do we have statistics to support this transmission so that we can urge everyone to be vaccinated?

(4) Does the Governments have plans to fight the surge in Covid-19 cases especially in Goroka who are in dire need of oxygen tanks and the management of dead corpses?

**03/01**

(5) Is there any treatment apart from vaccination? I am actually trying to make it compulsory. Is there another treatment plan or not? Has WHO come up with another treatment plan or are we going to depend on vaccines only? What about the treatment of Covid-19 in our country?

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the good Member for Pomio for the series of questions. I didn't get all of the questions but I will answer some of them.

The community transmissions that are happening right now is due to the huge gatherings within our country. We have evidences that after the funeral of Sir Michael Thomas Somare the spikes went up and after the gatherings in Goroka the same happened.

So, we have evidence that community transmissions are more likely when there are huge gatherings.

The second question is about treatment. There is no treatment for the Covid-19 Delta Variant. The only thing we have, and these are from the experts within our country as well as those outside our country, the only thing we can do is isolate from other people so that the virus doesn't spread. We also have oxygen on standby when people have respiratory problems.

There are two types of medicines that are on the market at the moment. One is the aromaxin but it hasn't been proven so we haven't been giving it to people. There is another pill which has been cleared by Australia. In the next couple of weeks, we should get evidence from PGA and WHO whether it is the right medicine to give to our people.

I take this time to take the honourable Member's questions and I can answer them properly tomorrow in the next sitting.

**Mr JAMES DONALD** – Before I proceed, from the Opposition bench I welcome everybody to this afternoon's sitting.

My question was intended for the Minister for Petroleum but he is not here; a minister should be here at all times. But I will direct it to the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker I have a series of questions which I wish to direct to the Prime Minister in regards to the P'nyang and the ongoing negotiations with ExxonMobil for the development of this particular gas field.

Mr Speaker, the P'nyang Gas Fields are located in my province, Western Province and more specifically in North Fly.

The honourable Prime Minister and the Minister are fully aware of our concerns which are well documented and I think they have all the answers.

Mr Speaker I am compelled to raise these series of questions because of the failure oof the government and the Ministry of Petroleum to address these concerns.

The 13 questions are as follows:

(1) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that the P'nyang PRL3 or Petroleum Retention Licence Number three has expired five years ago?

(2) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that ExxonMobil has failed to develop the gas field despite holding the licence for 15 years?

(3) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that the Application for Petroleum Development Licence (APDL) was lodged in haste and has failed all the prerequisites, both technical and commercial tests under the *Oil and Gas Act*?

(4) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that 18 months extension was given after it expired and they failed to uphold or meet the requirements? There were nine prerequisites, they only met four and failed to comply with five.

(5) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that given the APDL by ExxonMobil failed to meet the technical and commercial requirements under *section 57(9)* of the *Oil and Gas Act*, therefore rendering the APDL invalid?

(6) Can the Prime Minister explain to my people of Western Province and Papua New Guinea why the ministry, through the Petroleum Advisory Board or PAB has delayed making decisions in accordance with the *Oil and Gas Act* for two years? They have not arrived at a decision for the last two years.

**04/01**

(7) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that the delay the PAB is a serious breach of the *Oil and Gas Act*?

(8) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that the delay by PAB is deliberate plot to preserve ExxonMobil interest at the expense of our people?

(9). Can the Prime Minister explain to the people of Western Province and the rest of the country what was the legal basis for the recent negotiations with ExxonMobil, given their PRL 3 expired five years ago in accordance with the law?

(10.) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny the recently signed agreements between the Government and ExxonMobil in Houston in United States is illegal?

(11) Can the Prime Minister explain to the people of Western Province why they were not consulted or even invited for the Houston negotiations? In this instance we the Members of the Western Province I was snubbed.

(12) Can the Prime Minister explain why the same people who were directly involved in the PNG LNG Project which failed this country were heavily involved in the P'nyang Gas Project. Would that be a coincidence?

**Mr Bryan Kramer** – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, without apologising for interjecting. I think the statement made specifically that the PNG LNG has failed, is in fact an incorrect statement. The PNG LNG has been a success and we are earning revenue and the gas price did plummet, so it didn't meet expectations when the gas prices was at \$103 dollars. But the statement made in this Parliament that the PNG LNG Gas Project failed should be retracted.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Minister, your point of order is out of order because he is not making a statement but he is asking a question to the Prime Minister to respond and the Prime Minister can address that statement whether its true or not. So Honourable Member please continue to ask your question.

**Mr Chris Haiveta** – Point of order! Mr Speaker, Minister Kerenga Kua and I were part of that trip to Houston, we both were never a part of the PNG LNG negotiations. The *Standing Orders* clearly state that Members should not cast aspersions on another Member. Questions asked on this Floor must be t from facts.

Mr Speaker, through you, I ask that the Honourable Member for North-Fly withdraw his aspersions against me and the Minister for Petroleum and Energy as our negotiations were for the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, your point of order is out of order. The Honourable Member never mentioned any names or titles, he is asking a general question for the Prime Minister to answer.

**05/01**

Honourable Member for North Fly, go straight to your questions and ask.

**Mr JAMES DONALD** – Mr Speaker, my last question is; can the Prime Minister explain in full detail the agreement that they signed in USA?

Mr Speaker, I want the Prime Minister to inform this country and the people of Western Province in detail the outcome and status of the heads of agreements. And if the rules of law have not been fully followed, whose interest are we following?

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** – Mr Speaker, firstly, I wish to acknowledge your role as the Speaker of this House who ensures that Meetings of Parliament are conducted smoothly.



Mr Speaker, this is a good question raised by the Member for North Fly. As the elected leader mandated by the people in the resource area, he is not wrong in asking such questions on what has taken place. I thank him for asking these important questions, however, I wish to ask him to submit these 13 questions to me in writing because they deserve appropriate answers. I give my assurance that either the Minister for Petroleum or myself will make a detailed response during this Meeting of Parliament, so that the people of Western Province, North Fly District and people from other resource areas and the country are aware of the heads of agreement that we have reached with ExxonMobil in Houston, and also what will happen with P'nyang.

All these important questions, especially on the legality of PRL3 process and APDL process carried out by the Petroleum Advisory Board, the extension of 18 months and whether it is proper for ExxonMobil to keep the PRL for 15 years – I will reply in detail in the coming weeks so that the people of Western Province are fully informed of what has taken place.

Mr Speaker, I wish to give a brief summary before I sit down. The heads of agreement that we signed in Houston was clearly to set a framework to guide us to move into a proper gas agreement with ExxonMobil as developer. This doesn't disqualify the Department of Petroleum as lead department to follow the laws in the *Oil and Gas Act*, including all the laws of this country for us to go and sign the Gas Agreement and work with the investor partner to commence the work on our P'nyang resource.

For the benefit of this country, P'nyang is located in the North West in Muruk resources down to Juha Hides then to PNG LNG and to Papua LNG.

When we first formed the Government on 30 May 2019, in my first statement I mentioned that P'nyang resource will not combine with Papua LNG. At that time Papua LNG had already been signed by the previous government and wanted to include P'nyang LNG as well.

If you can check my statement on the *Hansard* record, I stated that P'nyang is totally different from Papua LNG.

But Honourable Member for North Fly, I sympathize with you in trying to get more for your people in North Fly, Western Province and the country because we have that same mindset that drives us to bring out our resources.

The contemporary global conversation today is on cleaner energy now. As we have seen coal ten years ago when we were signing PNG LNG project, today the focus on earth is moving towards clean energy.

06/01

Today in Cabinet, we signed a proposed template to work with Fortescue Future Industries on clean energy again to be sourced from our country. That is an absolutely frightening phase in which the world is moving towards clean energy. Ten years from today, our gas up there in the mountains of North Fly and mountains of Papua New Guinea may be redundant if we do not engage in a planned harvest of these resources. I want to give peace to the Member that these heads of agreement are now a public document, but we will move towards what is formally recognized in the *Oil and Gas Act* as the gas agreement. Gas agreement will expand beyond heads of agreement. In summary, the understanding we had with ExxonMobil at Houston, State will receive up to 63 per cent of total project of economic benefits from P'nyang. The PNG LNG sits at 49 per cent while Papua LNG is at 51 per cent. I want to thank Governor Chris Haiveta for leading as special envoy.

Today, through all these negotiations, we make the national government function. As we go towards gas agreement, there will be a time for us to call provinces and land owners to come to discuss on the benefits. It will happen like the public exercise work like what we did for the PNG LNG. But I am aware of the level we are with PNG LNG. Our government's discussion to take back more resource benefits back to the country is the agenda we are driving in Porgera, P'nyang, timber projects and others.

So, I want to assure the Member for North Fly that when it is time to consult you on to the gas agreement, we will call you and the leaders of Western Province and the people of P'nyang resource to consult you all on what you would like. Heads of agreements we signed is 10 per cent head cost and I thank ExxonMobil. They understand the dynamics at play and government's plans to get back more for the country. The 10 per cent is subject to discussion with landowners and Western Provincial Government. The 10 per cent we agreed in principal and quarantined for Western provincial government and landowners. So, ExxonMobil is willing to give away 10 per cent of its share.

Mr Speaker, I am aware that when I went there, I did not go for nothing; I picked the right time, amidst activity or moves by others to take ownership of P'nyang as well as PNG LNG and oil and gas sector where Oil Search and Santos want to work together. I made a point at the ExxonMobil headquarter that in the event that Santos and Oil Search offload some of their stakes on P'nyang or PNG LNG, national interest will take precedence. ExxonMobil, Total and other players must not be envious of this. The Kumul and Papua New Guinea interest will take precedence on these agreements.

Our industries are aware, we are not a new government. Our government has led for two years and our mindset to bring back more for the country is clear. So, I am grateful that ExxonMobil has responded positively. Santos and Oil Search also want to work together and the two have indicated positively that some offload will take place then Kumul and PNG beneficiaries will have first right of refusal when we go into all these agreements.

So, I want to reassure the Member that he has all the rights to ask all these questions. With some of the finer details, we will have to go through the proper process. After heads of agreement we will now advance into a proper process for gas agreement which is sanctioned by law. Of that, land owners, provincial government and district will also sit with Petroleum Minister as we go through the processes.

But the other issue on the legal compliance of the former holder of PRL3 in ExxonMobil and partners, whether they comply and exist within the law, I give assurance to the Honourable Member that the Petroleum Department will look through these issues and a response will be given in this Meeting of Parliament.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

#### **Status of Kimbe Provincial Hospital Project**

**Mr SASSINDRAN MUTHUVEL** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Honourable Health Minister.

Mr Speaker, can the Health Minister inform the Parliament and my people of the current status of the Kimbe Provincial Hospital?

I thank the Prime Minister for coming and giving assurance during the ground breaking ceremony, but we would like to know exactly when this project will be approved in the Cabinet.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**07/01**

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Governor of West New Britain for his question.

The West New Britain Provincial Hospital project has already come to Cabinet and it is now with Treasury Department for processing and once it comes back to Cabinet, we should have it approved by this week or next week.

The process is quite lengthy, as we have other issues on hand. I would like to assure the people of West New Britain that we have it checked and we should have it processed in the next two weeks.

### **Covid-19 Surge in Eastern Highlands**

**Mr PETER NUMU** – Thank you Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Health Minister and for the Prime Minister and the Police Minister to take note.

Before I proceed with the questions, my province, Eastern Highlands Province is been hit by Covid-19 or Delta variant.

The total admission by way of report is 215 within the month of 7<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Discharged number of patients is 113. Current patients numbers at the moment is 76, deaths from admission is 42, deaths before arrival is 31 and the total number of deaths of reported cases is 73.

Mr Speaker, the current signal of this Covid-19 is completely different and aggressive. The total number of 73 that I have mentioned are reported cases. But I have been receiving phone calls that young people are falling and dying on every street and we have a critical situation at the moment.

Mr Speaker, my question is; how did Delta variant hit Eastern Highlands? I have no idea too. Within the month of September, a week before Independence celebration and the Goroka Show we were already hit by Covid-19.

Mr Speaker, the biggest issue right now is how the medical situation will be handled in my province and how we will handle the attitude of the people of mass gatherings and our life-style that leads to quick spread of Covid-19.

My questions are;

(1) Who is responsible for issuing of measures to stop transmission of Covid-19 under the *Pandemic Act*?

(2) Who is responsible for the enforcement of those measures?

Mr Speaker, we have seen measures by way of papers but the enforcement part of it is lacking. I want to know from the Minister, at the provincial and district level, who is responsible for the enforcement of protocols and measures of Covid-19.

**08/01**

I see none in my province. Are those measures properly enforced or is it centralised in Waigani?

(3) Is there any insurance for the front liners? Does this Government have any insurance for the front liners who are the health workers and who are handling Covid-19 patients and the

dead bodies? Is there an insurance for police personnel who are enforcing the measures? We have lost three health workers and two police personnel already.

(4) Is there any funding available for the roll-out of vaccines? If there is then who is responsible for the release of those funds to support the province? If there are no funding then are there any strategies in place to roll-out the vaccines because I know there are a lot of challenges we will face? What are the strategies?

Given the situation in Goroka, the provincial controller has put measures in place. There is a shortage of funds for our health workers and police personnel to carry out their duties. The provincial government has allocated only K1.4 million but we will need more than that to roll-out the measures in the province.

(5) Do you have any plans for Eastern Highlands? I have signed a provincial Covid-19 plan in August and presented it to NDoH for the Minister to take it up. I do not know the status of this plan and the funding that has been requested.

(6) Can you give us an account of the latest update on the provincial Covid-19 plan that we presented?

Mr Speaker, before I end, we have a leadership problem in our provincial health authority and I have been asking about for almost one and half years to no avail. Many recommendations have been made but to this date we lack leadership. We lack leadership or authority in the provincial health department.

(7) Can you give us an update on the replacement of the chairman?

**Mr JELTA WONG** – I thank the Governor of Eastern Highlands for his questions.

Before I answer him, on behalf of this Government and our people, I want to give my deepest condolences to the victims of the Covid-19 in all provinces, especially in Eastern Highlands where it has been hit the hardest.

Mr Speaker, with regard to the first question, the measures are formulated through a committee at NCC which includes our scientists and our policy people.

**09/01**

The first question on the measures. These measures are formulated through a committee at the NCC, which includes MISAC which is our brother scientist and our policy people and it is brought to the Controller of the Pandemic, who signs off on it and then it is sent to the provincial controllers to implement the measures within the provinces and they have to partner with the provincial governments to ensure that the measures are adhered to.

There is a Surge Team going into the Eastern Highlands Province to help with Covid-19 Delta Variant, as I said before there is no cure for it and one thing that we need to realise is that it needs time to get out of the system; about 14 to 21 days. Now, this is from our leading expert so we can't expect it to happen overnight. We need people to isolate themselves and when they need oxygen then we provide it to them. But, the gist of it all is that in the whole world we do not have a cure for Covid-19. ✓

The Vaccination is being funded by our Government as well as our foreign partners.

In the last two weeks the Vaccination Roll-out has quadrupled in numbers which means that people are seeing the importance of getting vaccinated so they are turning up in numbers at the vaccination points to get vaccinated. This is one thing which will slow down the variant of the virus moving and people getting hospitalised. It has been proven overseas that the vaccine has provided some protection for people who have underlying health issues and the people that are of old age.

Mr Speaker, we can tell from our data that the more people being vaccinated the less the number of people getting hospitalised. Yes, we may have one or two but not everyone's DNA is the same. We all have different DNA's and the medicine affects all different types of people, for example someone could be allergic to amoxycillin and it could cause us a lot of problems so, we cannot assure you that the vaccine will work for everyone.

On the question regarding provincial funding, up to date the Government has been giving the grants to the PHA's but in this time of emergency, I had a meeting with Treasury last week and they are ensuring that the funds are sent to the provinces.

On the PHA of the Eastern Highlands Province, last week the NEC appointed the new chairman and I heard that he was on ground trying to help with the current situation in the province.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **Supplementary Questions**

**Mr BELDEN NAMAHA** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Minister for Health in his response to the Governor of Eastern Highlands Province mentioned something about oxygen. and I have been reading in the media that there is shortage of oxygen in Eastern Highlands and in most of the hospitals in the country. Also, the hospitals are experiencing over-crowding because of shortage in the bed spaces.

1) What have you done as the Minister for Health to prepare the country for such a situation?

2) Where have all the Covid-19 funds gone? and;

3) Why are all the provincial hospitals throughout the country, even here in Port Moresby getting over-crowded?

**10/01**

What have you done with those funds?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the good Opposition Leader for his questions.

I forgot to mention that last year this government gave K2 million to each district to prepare themselves for Covid-19.

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! That similar response was done by your Prime Minister and I proved that there was no K2 million for the hospitals, you are misleading the Parliament. Where are all the Covid funds for the hospital? Answer the question.

**Mr JELTA WONG** - Mr Speaker, all funds through the Health Department goes through PHAs. So, the K2 million has been given to PHAs to ensure that they are ready for this Covid.

The oxygen issue raised by the Opposition Leader who said that we were missing funds is incorrect, actually we weren't missing. We have bills that accumulated since 2009 to the company that supplies oxygen and up to this time we never paid any thing until last week when the Treasury paid K14 million to ensure that the oxygen is released for our people.

So, now we are getting oxygen throughout our hospital but this is a legacy issue that has plagued our health system.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Let the Chair recognize your Point of Order and you will speak. Now the Chair has recognized your Point of Order.

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let's forget about legacy issues, we've had K6.7 billion in Covid funds. What have you done as the Health Minister?

**Mr SPEAKER** – Let me address this point of order then will come to your point of order Honourable Governor.

The Opposition Leader your point of order is out of order he is answering a question and Honourable Governor what is your point of order?

**Mr Allan Bird** – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the presentations on the Floor of this House and I want to caution the Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of misinformation on this Floor and you have to rule. There was no K6 billion for Covid-19. We were all seated here and the Treasurer had presented the report. In the report it stated K501 million and why are we allowing Members of Parliament to tell lies on the Floor.

Mr Speaker, our people who are watching will pick up this lie and spread it. We should read the reports that are presented and I would ask the good Honourable Member for Vanimo Green to withdraw this statement. We approved on this Floor in November last year to borrow K5.7 billion for the entire budget and out of that borrowing K501 million went specifically for Covid actions in the districts, provinces, health centers, at PHAs and Port Moresby General Hospital.

Mr Speaker, the same part of that funding went to support Police and many other agencies.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Thank you, honourable Governor. Let the Chair rule on his point of order first. The honourable Members, I think it's better, when asking questions or making statement we must be factual.

So, I allow the honourable Minister to continue answering the questions.

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. If the good Opposition Leader was in Parliament at that time, we've presented four different audit reports here during four different Parliament sessions and it's been well documented that everything we spend through Covid period.

We also release K4 million to each PHAs for them to spend and if he has time he can go down to his Vanimo PHA and sit down with them and find out what they spent it on.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.



**11/01**

**Mr GARRY JUFFA** – Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Police and I would like the Prime Minister, Minister for Forest and the Minister for Justice and the Attorney General to take note.

Mr Speaker, on 7 October 2021 there was a report released by an NGO named as Global Witness. The Report was in regard to Oil Palm companies operating in Papua New Guinea, specifically in the East New Britain province.

In that report that there was an undercover investigation which exposed a number of individuals who made admissions, on camera, that they had committed serious criminal offences of bribery of public servants and Members of Parliament and in that they had also engaged the police force in acts of brutality against citizens who had raised concerns.

My questions are as follows;

- (1.) Is the Minister aware of this Report?
- (2.) What actions will the Minister take in regards to these very serious allegations that are basically admissions of crimes by various individuals who are identified in that report?
- (3.) What actions will be taken in terms of police brutality against citizens who raised concerns in regards to the issues in this report?

**Mr WILLIAM ONGLO** – Mr Speaker, I thank the governor for the Northern Province and I am equally frustrated in regard to the report. I have seen that video. It was in a bar and it is alleged that some reporters came in with hidden cameras and interviewed our drunkard landowners and they have the leaked footage and reports and it is really painting a bad image of our country at the moment.

I have flagged the Police Commissioner on that and I expect him to look into this matter seriously. We are not a “cowboy country”. We have laws and if you want to do sanction investigations’ we have guidelines in place to follow. I was also questioning the reporter of this report and sometimes they dilute the facts and the report is biased with personal intent or motives.

As the Police Minister iam very disappointed in this manner of reporting which I viewed on YouTube and once the Police department look into this matter, I will inform the good Governor and this Parliament and the people of this country know on the outcome.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion (**Mr William Samb**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.35 p.m..