

SECOND DAY

Wednesday 19 January 2022

DRAFT HANSARD

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CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

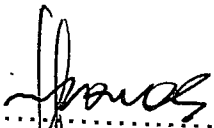
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HARRY MOMOS

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SECOND DAY

Wednesday 19 January 2022

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Koni Iguan**) took the Chair at 10 a.m.

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

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and invited the Member for Mul-Baiyer, **Honourable Koi Trappe**, to say Prayers;

‘Thank you God, in the name of our lord, Jesus Christ, mipela come long ai blong yu, mipela olgeta leaders yu yet yu makim. Our Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Governors and the Members of Parliament. Lord Jesus, mipela come long diwai cross bilong yu, yu yet yu save long tingting na pasin bilong mipela. Father, forgive us, cleanse us with your precious blood na larim spirit bilong yu wok insait long laip bilong mipela na mipela ken lidim dispela nation the way you want it. Father, mi pray na mi putim mipela olgeta lidas long mighty na powerful han bilong yu. Thank you, God, and thank you, Holy Spirit, thank you, Jesus Christ long today’s Parliament Session. Thank you, Holy Spirit. Amen’

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER – Mr JOEL PEPA PAUA – STATEMENT BY Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I wish to inform Parliament of the death of Mr Joel Pepa Pua on 13 January 2022. He was the former Member for Mul-Baiyer Open Electorate. He was first elected to the Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987 and was re-elected to the Fourth National Parliament from 1987 to 1992 for the same seat.

During his term as a member, he served as a Member of Plans and Estimate Committee and Member of the Temporary Emergency Committee from 1982 to 1987.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late and former honourable gentleman, I invite all honourable Members to rise in their places.

(All Members stood in silence in their places as a mark of respect to the late gentleman)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of Pastors of Lutheran church and delegates from Sumkar District, Madang Province in the public gallery.

On behalf of the Parliament, I extend to the visitors, a warm welcome to the National Parliament.

02/02

QUESTIONS Coffee Berry Borer

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have here a copy of the PNG Commodities publication which I got here in Parliament yesterday. The report on page 15 of the book was on coffee and one of the headings stated that PNG coffee is making a mark on the world stage. The report also cited the World Bank protection on Arabica and on Robusta to increase in the world market prices due to frost in Brazil which is the world's dominant Arabica supplier and drought in Vietnam, the world's dominant supplier for Robusta coffee. The price will remain at \$4 per kilogram from 2021 to 2022.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a coffee producing district, I am very concerned. My people have been planting coffee for the past few years and we are new to the industry. We have about 300, 000 coffee trees planted, and our farmers are very keen on expanding the coffee industry. We know that coffee can make a lot of differences in the lives of our people in the rural communities. However, I have a concern, over the past years, we have received very limited support from the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC).

Mr Deputy Speaker, the biggest concern I have is, the coffee berry borer. I am advised that the borer was not contained in some of the major Highlands coffee-growing provinces. Growers have informed me that they are losing about 20 per cent of their coffee to the borer, which is making it hard to survive. I'm advised by many farmers in the Highlands that they are walking away from coffee as well.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this reflects in PNG's national production declining in the past years. The country has gone from producing approximately one million bags per year to now about seven hundred thousand bags per year. This relates to our country not having approximately K200 million in export earning that would be going straight to the pockets of the growers. I'm also informed that there is a solution for the borer by using a fungus that have been identified by some of our local scientists.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are:

(1). What is the Government and CIC doing to address coffee berry borer in our country?

03/02

(2) Can the Minister give assurance to my growers and many of the people involved in the coffee industry to continue or are they just wasting their time?

Coffee Price Support

I am aware that DAL or the Government has embarked on K20 million price support program.

(3) Can the Minister provide details on the Government's price support program to date?

(4) How did the K20 million price support help when we have lost over K200 million in export values of production to coffee borer.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a coffee section in Kokopo District constructed in partnership with World Bank and Production Partnership in Agriculture Project (PPAP) program. I am advised that, the coffee manager unfortunately died last week. This has affected many coffee farmers in my district.

(5) Can then DAL intervene to address this matter with stake-holders for a new manager to be appointed as a matter of priority?

Pomio Coffee Factory

(6) Considering the fact that 70 per cent to 80 per cent of coffee that is going to Kokopo to this particular factory comes from the people of Pomio District, can DAL consider partnering with Pomio DDA to establish a coffee factory in my district?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JOHN SIMON – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Pomio for his questions.

Firstly, coffee price currently in the world is doing very good as the Member for Pomio alluded to. Actually, with what has happened in Brazil, I would like to encourage all of us to continue to growing coffee. The current price of coffee is doing very well and is striving very well.

What's happening is that our exporters in the industry are not being fair on the price. I came to realise that our exporters continue to fall to the world price which is the conventional price. But, when you really look at the price of coffee itself, our farmers should be earning more from their coffee; both Robusta and Arabica.

I said this last year and my message to the exporters is that, this year we will be looking at creating policies so that the green bean coffee and the raw coffee or cocoa should be exported by a state agency. We cannot allow the private sector to continue to do this and suppress the prices when the price is very good. The world has opened up and we know what the prices are. Why should our farmers be getting less than K6 from parts-man and cocoa as well?

So, the prices are out there. The population of the world has grown and the demand on coffee, cocoa and on a lot of our commodities is very good.

I spoke to the commodity board to look into this so that we come up with a policy which the raw products especially, parchment coffee, green bean coffee, cocoa beans should be exported by a state agency. In this way, we will also get involved in marketing; the Department has not been involved in the marketing. The commodity boards are only involved in the extension programs.

I have been very vocal about these things by having meetings with the commodity boards to get into the market. We need to get involved in the marketing so that we get the right price to our farmers.

Based on the coffee berry borer issue, CIC and NAQIA are working on it. One of the issues is with the funding to support NAQIA and CBB to put up roadblocks. Sometimes our

people are funny as well, when you put up a road block on the other path, they stick coffees through the other areas.

We need continuous funding. We spoke to the Treasurer to continue to support NAQIA but financial constraints are one of the main reasons why we still have the CBB issue.

04/02

But some of most remote places like Kaintiba that are growing coffee are, that is CBB free actually, so, I would like to encourage our farmers in those remote places to continue growing coffee. Currently coffee is trading very well in the commodity market but the decline in market is not only to do with CIC but also, with people refusing to become laborers. In the past people were recruited to work on plantations but today people do not want to be employed and have the position of a laborer.

I have been encouraging big landowner groups that we should work together and sub-divide the plantations, give it back to the landowners. So, they take ownership of the little blocks that they have. When they take ownership, they will go in and start producing the crops that to sell or buy. And prices are beginning to drop because there are not enough laborers in the plantations.

Like I said, no-one wants to be a '*wok boi*' as in the past we had people migrating to work on plantations but now we have people migrating to work in offices, shops etc. We need to sub-divide those plantations and have people take ownership and work on them to produce what we want to achieve; and that is enough produce to market. Most plantations are now owned by corporate entities, they are losing laborers and in turn the production is low and we do not have much to sell to our local and international markets.

Waghi Mek is one of the plantations that is being run down because there are not enough laborers to work there. I have been discussing with the landowners and with the Governor and the local MPs to try and do something about improving work and production standards of such plantations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Honourable Minister, I will interrupt you, I want you to get to your answers promptly. So, we can have some time given to the other Members to ask their questions.

Mr JOHN SIMON - The question is about the poor production so I am giving an explanation as to why the production is very low. I am giving a honest opinion. About the

K20 million it is in the budget and will be rolled out and we will look into the areas that have been identified in the 2021 Budget.

In relation to the other K50 million we have made a mass media circulation as to how this was spent. And K20 million is from this year's budget.

In relation to the coffee mill in Kokopo, from the information that I have which needs verification. I believe it is owned by the East New Britain Provincial Government, operated by the East New Britain Development Corporations that owns seven shares and partly owned by the Korean Business. It is a private-public partnership issue we only issue the license.

St John Ambulance

Sir PUKA TEMU – Thank you Deputy Speaker, it is actually good to be back in Parliament but that is the subject of another debate. I wish to direct my question to the Minister for Health.

Firstly, I want to thank him for supporting Abau with K1 million where we used to purchase our new medical equipment.

05/02

They are en-route to Singapore and should arrive in the country by the end of January. Then, we will install them and invite the Prime Minister to open the new Abau District Hospital hopefully in March. So, Minister for Health, thank you very much for your continuous support.

I rise to ask a question regarding the St John Ambulance. I was here present in the Budget Session and I realized that the St John Ambulance missed out on their 2022 Budget Support and that is unbecoming of a good government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as I speak the last two quarters 2021 which is worth about K2.75 million has not yet been received by the St John Ambulance. So today, they do not have any funds to purchase fuel for the Ambulances and this fortnight the 120 staff of St John's Ambulance will not be paid. This is a very serious matter and I wish to raise this issue on the Floor of Parliament through the Minister for Health.

For those who need clarification, St John Ambulance came into this country and was established by Statute in 1957, which is 65 years ago. Over those years, the arrangement has been a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Department of Health through an annual budget grant but I believe that things have changed with the current leadership during APEC and the Covid-19 Crisis.

I think all the honorable members of this House will agree with me that the St John's Ambulance has performed extremely well and therefore deserves the support of this honorable House.

Mr Deputy Speaker, currently there is an agreement signed in 2019, for a national ambulance service consisted with the emergency service, fire service and police which are national programs. When I became the Minister for Health, we pushed for a concept of national ambulance service.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are 400 rural ambulances throughout the country but only 80 are operational. There are 30 ambulances with St John and 27 are operational. Just imagine, under the agreement of the national ambulance service St John takes over all these 400 ambulances.

I believe there will be improvement in the standards of pre-hospital care which is very important in health care; ambulances services have skilled, trained and accredited staff.

(1) Can the Minister for Health explain to the House and the people why the St John's Ambulance was not included in the appropriation for 2022?

I am sure the Minister has answers but he needs to inform this House.

(2) Can the Minister progress on this agenda of establishing National Ambulance Services?

I believe that this is the way forward.

06/02

Under the *Medicines Act*, there is a provision for exemption provided by the department.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this a very important point -

Mr Rainbo Paita – Point of Order! We understand the gist of the question but he is using the opportunity to make a statement on other areas in the sector of health as well.

We can give a fair opportunity because the question is well articulated and the Health Minister can respond.

Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Member, keep your questions short.

Sir PUKA TEMU – Sometimes people don't understand the background and this is very important. The point that I made about *Medicines Act* is under the provision of ambulance services. There is provision of exemption for the *Medicines Act* to apply because the ambulances must be certified to carry aspirin, oxygen, and oxytocin, which is injected in mothers when they bleed. And when this is not renewed ambulance officers will not have access and it's very serious.

(3) Can the Minister allow for exemption for this very important service.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JELTA WONG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the good Member for Abau for his question in relation to the St John Ambulance services.

The St John Ambulance when they first came here were funded by people. Who thought that ambulance service will only serve the people within the city. Since APEC it has expanded.

Our Prime Minister has committed K1 million to St John Ambulance. The money is available but we have process within our government system to submit acquittals. I have met with St Johns on many occasions and I have asked them to do a proper acquittal because I am responsible for the money that was allocated to them.

We've become very reliant on St Johns and they are doing a good job. But the good member has stated that they operate in only five areas of our country but what about the other 17 areas. What about Kandrian-Gloucester, Kavieng, Open Bay and all these rural areas. And this whole system is based here in Port Moresby.

We have 600 or 800 ambulances out there in the districts to transport the sick people. The St John Ambulance do not have the capacity to look after the entire country. The National Department of Health has to look after the entire country. And we cannot allow St John's ambulance to come in and do it. They will only upgrade Port Moresby and Lae. And what about the rest of us in the rural areas. These are things that I have to consider.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, just one clarification with St John being an organization that is dependent on funds from either donor agencies or government. It is impossible for them to expand this service unless they are assisted to do so. For instance, I do know that they are being assisted by members or the PHAs of those particular areas.

We are going through the process now in Oro to fund St John's ambulance to operate in Oro province.

So, I just want to correct the minister, perhaps he is being misled by his department. The National Department of Health need to get their act together so, that they can address this issue rather than blaming St John Ambulance for not being in all these areas.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your Point of Order is in order but it seems that you are debating the question asked by the Honourable Member.

Mr JELTA WONG – I may have given the wrong impression that National Department of Health and St Johns are at loggerheads but we are talking. We have a special intervention program with the government that we are using because we understand this problem came up three or four months ago.

We informed the National Planning Minister and my secretary had conversation with the Finance Secretary so, there is just special intervention program that will go into St John's ambulance and will correct some of the things. But in all every company that comes through the government has to follow process and we are working very hard with St Johns to ensure that process is fulfilled.

07/02

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – My supplementary question to the Minister for Health, as he is aware Kairuku-Hiri is still waiting for its promised K1 million which was budgeted for by my DDA for construction of an outpatient building for Bereina Health Center.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable member your question is not in line with the question asked by the member. You can reserve your right to ask a question later.

Councillors' Allowances

Mr CHRIS NANGOI – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker for recognizing the people of Sumkar. On behalf of the people of Sumkar I also stand in queue to extend a happy belated new year to all of us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is directed to the good minister for Inter Government Relations. Before I ask my question, I wanted to acknowledge our good Treasurer Mr Ian Ling- Stuckey for the Open-Door Policy especially to honour our LLG budget plan.

Treasurer, I know that you have a big national budget plan that you will be worrying about but I see that the LLG Budgets are next to your heart. After this sitting, I have my presidents and councilors here, who want to hand over their budget.

While the presidents and councillors are here, they also brought to my attention some issues with regards to our ward councillors back in our electorate. I think the main issue our ward councillors have is with regards to their allowances.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I think it is important that we must recognize our ward members. Our ward members seem to be all the time with our people back in the village and they are like “jack of all trades” and they seem to attend to community issues all the time. Now that we are facing elections the most important data, we are going to depend on is the common roll update and we are going to use these Ward Councillors and the ward recorders. Therefore, we need to pay their allowances so they continue to update that common roll for this election.

We are members of parliament and our ward councilors are also regarded as members of the ward. Members of the parliament are paid on a fortnightly basis. Every fortnight we get our salary.

On behalf of the council, can we give some recognition to our councillors and pay them on a fortnightly basis.

My second question is in regard to the outstanding allowances for those ward councillors that worked during the period of 2012 – 2017. Are we going to back pay these councillors and families of those who died without being paid? Will we also pay those who lost in the elections that were never paid?

08/02

Mr PILA NININGI – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Sumkar, for asking important questions. I believe I made it clear, but if not, then I’m going to make it clear again.

Members of the Councils, I want to thank the Prime Minister and his government and NEC for the approval to put our Councillors on payroll.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and his Government for putting the Councillors on payroll. The councillors will start getting their fortnightly pay of K300. The Vice-Presidents will be paid K350 per fortnight as well.

I have received directives to my department from the NEC, National Planning and Monitoring, Treasury and Public Service for us to work together. We have provided the list to them. We have a list of all the councillors as well as their account details.

The officials from my department and the other departments have worked together to ensure a team for this. Shortly they will be on the payroll and getting their fortnightly payments.

The councillors have been doing a lot of things, they are important people. I am a son of a councillor. I know the struggles they face, how they eat, how they sleep or how they go about doing their work. As I have already said, councillors become ambulance drivers, peace makers and magistrates. They become a 'jack of all trades'.

They make a lot of things happen. We must thank the councillors for doing a lot of these things. This Government will put them on payroll and we must give them the recognition. That authority should start at the village level. The councillors should be dressed like councillors when moving around, not like any ordinary citizen. They have authority.

This Government has given its approval. Last time they were issued their uniforms, cowboy hats, trousers, suits and bags. They look smart just like us. We must establish them as authorities in the villages.

Councillors are now on payroll, but it will take some time and they will be eventually paid.

The second question about outstanding allowances. We have received some funds and the department is fixing them. For the missing fortnights, we are now putting money into their accounts. I believe the money was put in last week. If not, we will put it in this week or this month. We have some funds and it will be paid into their accounts.

I don't think they have missed a lot of fortnights, but if for a specific case that a councillor has not been paid, please inform us and we will look into it. But I think everyone is getting a little allowance right now.

I want to say thank you again. These questions are important. The councillors play a very important role. I want to say thank you to the councillors who are carrying out work in their villages.

May the Heavenly Father help them.

Supplementary Question

Councilors – Payment of Allowances

Mr FABIAN POK – Can the Minister for Provincial Affairs inform the House, the exact time when the Councilors are to be paid. It's almost election time and we do not want to go for the elections and have differences with the councilors about this.

09/02

I would like to know when the councilors are getting paid or if you can give us a specific date, so that when we return to our electorates, we'll be able to respond to them.

Thank you.

Mr PILA NININGI – Mr Deputy Speaker, we are practically putting them on the payroll. The Alesco payroll system is taking time. We made a principle decision to put them on payroll and they were all happy. This government is now recognizing all councilors compared to the previous governments.

So, we need you all to bear with us as this payroll system will take a while. We will have to work together with the respective departments to carry this work forward. So, my department would want to pay them now but because this system is taking a very long time, it's beyond my departments control.

The ALESCO payroll sytem that we are trying to implement is taking a very long time but please bear with us because we will certainly pay them as soon as we can.

Local Level Government – SIP Funds

Mr RICHARD MASERE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I understand this is the last supplementary question but as this is an important subject matter, I don't think this is the last because we need to address this properly on this Floor of Parliament.

Let me congratulate the Minister on the work that he is doing because the councilors are also happy as well. The work you are doing will pay its results at the end of the day, in addition to the salaries they are earning, I think the LLGs ward members are aware as per the directive from the National Government that each ward member is to receive LLG SIP as well.

Can the good Minister, while attending to the wages, also look into the LLG SIP fund as well?

Thank you.

Mr PILA NININGI – Mr Deputy Speaker, I wouldn't want to pre-empt NECs decision, but there is a submission before NEC stating the payment of all councilors or the money granted for pro-rata payments. So, once their term is over, then they will be paid

accordingly, depending on how long they served as member of the council, sometimes it might be five to ten years or even 20 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that we have K12 million.

Mr Richard Masere – Point of Order! The Minister must have misunderstood the question.

This question is in relation to LLG SIP. I believe each ward was budgeted at K10 thousand annually which was to pay each council member. So that was the question. Sorry if I interrupted too early.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, I think the Member's question is a new one and I would have to rule it as a new question to you. Earlier the Honourable Member for Sumkar raised a supplementary question based on allowances but this question now is based on Ward SIP funds.

Since you have gone ahead in answering the questions, I will allow you to continue.

Mr PILA NININGI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

In 2019 we had a budget allocation of K10 000 to each councilor. Unfortunately, the funds were not injected due to Covid-19 breakout. My apologies because we couldn't action what we budgeted for -

10/02

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! I sympathize with the Honourable Minister. I think the Honourable Member for Ijivitari has totally confused the Minister. So, I think that the question should be withdrawn and the Minister can concentrate on answering the questions on the ward.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Opposition Leader, your point of order is in order. I think I've made it clear before I asked the Minister to continue. I should have ruled it earlier that the supplementary raised by the Member for Ijivitari was a new question, but because the Minister has already gone into answering part of the question, I will allow him time to clarify and sum it up.

Mr PILA NININGI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I've said earlier, the K10 000 was allocated but the Covid-19 disrupted everything so we apologise for that but we won't forget the commitment. For now, I won't make any promise but to be honest we will pay the councillors when we have funds so that they can improve the council system at the ward level. Thank you.

Pay Juha Landowners

Mr TOBOI YOTO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Petroleum. This is in relation to the benefits of our land owners. I ask this question when I first came into Parliament and since my time is up soon and I never got an adequate answer, I am asking it again.

The Juha PDL9 gas field is in my province and we are receiving some funds from the development levy as well as royalty and equity, but the royalties and equities for the land owners of Juha are yet to be received. Every time when I ask, they say "the land owners have not yet been identified and the Minister is yet to make his determinations". This same answer was given repeatedly and soon my time will be up.

So, Minister, when will you give the determinations to the land owners of Juha so that they can start getting their benefits because the other beneficiaries of the same LNG project are currently benefiting. Most of the times they would say that it is part of the integrated projects and a man has sued me in court and Juha is also affected. Juha is not part of Hela and Southern Highlands. Juha is in Western Province and I want my people of Western Province to be treated fairly. Why do we have to treat them differently from Hela and Southern Highlands. I want to see my people from Juha especially the beneficiaries must receive their benefits before my term lapses.

Thank you.

Mr KERENGA KUA - Thank you, governor for Western Province for your question. Yes, Juha is part of the integrated PNG LNG project. There are several areas where they have combined and integrated and made the PNG LNG project and Juha is one of them. But, when it comes to the development of these various individual PDLs, they staggered it and developed it one at a time and up until recently they never did anything for Angore and Juha for various reasons, including court proceedings and injunctions. But, finally, under this government we have resolved issues relating to Angore and released those court orders.

11/02

Exon Mobil is now working in progress. Pipelines have been built and they are now working towards production, so operations are underway.

In Juha, PDL 9 which is a licensed area, there is no progress as yet because work hasn't commenced. But, what I can say is that, the royalties for the people along the pipeline route is up to date; only a few PDL areas are outstanding. Juha is still outstanding maybe because the production hasn't started or whether the landowner identification process is not yet complete so, I am not sure at the moment and I apologise for that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is a very specific question and I know that many issues arise in our project areas. I am not sure why Juha hasn't received its royalty, I will look into this matter. The royalties are given to the land owners and the development levees are given to the provincial governments.

So, to my understanding the Governor is okay with the development levees because he did not raise questions on that, the issue now is regarding the royalties, they did not receive any. I will look into it and get back to him directly.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Hoskins-Kimbe Road Funding

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Works but since he is not around, I will ask the Prime Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from December to March, West New Britain Province experienced wet conditions. This is alarming for us because rivers overflow and could damage the roads.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have been given a petition by the people from Hoskins to address some of these worst affected roads.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the funding for national roads; for example, the Hoskins to Kimbe road is a national highway and there is funding appropriated and allocated to the Department of Works. But many a times, we the provincial governments are blamed for not maintaining those roads.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is always a challenge when the people want us to attend to these matters at the last minute, maybe because of the upcoming election and all. But, we have been doing this work since we have taken office.

Can the Prime Minister give some assurance to our people that the appropriation meant for Hoskins-Kimbe National Highway be given priority and relief, so that we can attend to this road?

Thank you.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Governor for West New Britain for his questions.

Last year, we did release some funds for that particular road to start work. This year, whatever funds that is budgeted for will be released. So, that is my assurance to the Governor and his people.

Having said that, I would like to also indicate to the Governor that there is a contract awarded to that national highway which he is referring to. That highway also contributes a lot to our economy and it will be given a fair consideration.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Peter Isoaimo – Point of Order! Can I ask my question now?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, my apologies but I cannot allow you to raise your question since the Time for Question has lapsed. I will entertain your question tomorrow during the question time.

Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

12/02

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING AND MONITORING
ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen-Minister for National Planning and Monitoring) –
I present the following Paper pursuant to Statute.

Department of National Planning and Monitoring Annual Performance Report 2020

I ask leave of Parliament to make a statement in connection with the Report.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members of this House. I rise today to address this Honourable House as the Minister responsible for the oversight of the mandated tasks of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and hereby present to you today the 2020 Department of National Planning and Monitoring Annual Management Performance Report.

This Report provides the department's progress against key corporate deliverables and indicators highlighted in its Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

Mr Deputy Speaker, firstly, it is important to note that the *PNG Planning and Monitoring Responsibility Act 2016* legally mandates the Department of National Planning and Monitoring as the agency of Government responsible for overall planning matters. The Department has a mission to lead, plan, coordinate, monitor and review national development policies and plans through strategic planning, effective partnerships and resource mobilization.

Ultimately, the department's functions are integral to the overall goal of the Government's Medium-Term Development Plan III, 2018-2022, to achieve an inclusive and sustainable economic growth for Papua New Guinea. With the critical task of translating the Government's vision and policies into strategic and pragmatic outcomes, this department is working progressively to ensure that due diligence on investments are undertaken, systems and processes are strengthened and policies of Government at the sector and sub-national levels are coherently and strategically aligned to the MTDP III. It is also the Department's role to ensure that Government direct investments and development cooperation resources are coordinated; aligned to the MTDP III; and measure up to effectiveness and value for money principles.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at the outset, the lockdowns and restrictions of Covid-19 that applied to the country and the public service operations for that matter, had an impact on normal business processes that the department carries out. Whilst so, the department had to fast-track alternative and safe approaches of engagement with its stakeholders so that the course of business processes could be maintained as much as possible.

In light of this, let me proceed to highlight the key deliverables in 2020, despite Covid-19 impacts. Amongst a number of indicators of performance, I am pleased to present to you the 15 High Level Key Deliverables of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring in the 2020 implementation year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the 15 High-Level Deliverables of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring include:

- The successful delivery of the 2020 Capital Investment Budget and the subsequent 2020 Supplementary Budget. From an original appropriation in 2020 of K3,693.4 million, this was further revised upward to K4,056.1 million (an increase of K362.1 million) due to additional commitments made by Government to address Covid-19 challenges in the provinces and districts.
- The preparation and delivery of the 2021 Capital Investment Budget standing at K6,713.91 million. This comprises of the Government's direct financing of K4,067.50 million, and concessional loan financing from Multilateral Development Partners of K 1,638.40 million and grant financing of K1,008.01 Million from Bilateral Development Partners.
- Finalization and Presentation to the United Nations in 2020 on the Voluntary National Review Report of Papua New Guinea on the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs are embedded into the MTDP III and we are pleased that we are reporting on PNG's performance, internationally.
- Finalization and Launching of the Department of National Planning and Monitoring Corporate Plan 2020-2024. This is a key achievement for the Department because it includes a Corporate Plan which has not been in place since 2009.
- The successful progress in the alignment of Province and District Development Plans, including Sector Development Plans to the MTDP III. To date, 19 out of 22 Provinces and 75 out of 89 Districts have aligned their Provincial and District Developments Plans to the MTDP III. From the sectors, only the Agriculture Medium Term Plan underwent due diligence for alignment. This work will continue into 2021 and carried through quarterly and Mid-Terms reviews and monitoring of the 2020 Capital Investment Budget Programs and Projects. This process is an integral part of monitoring the performance of investments and the overall Budget.
- Progressive work kick-started on the development of National Indicators for Papua New Guinea. This work will continue into 2021 to finalize and present to Cabinet then. Progressed the preparation of the Final Draft of the Public Investment Programme (PIP) Management Guidelines. These guidelines set the systems and processes required for Government's direct financing. This will progress into 2021 for ministerial clearance.

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- Consistent weekly financial reporting of the Capital Investment Budget at the High-Level Budget Management Committee. The Budget Management Committee is chaired by the Treasurer and DNPM is a key member.

- Delivering the final draft of the MTDP III 2018-2022 Mid-Term Review Report. A nationwide consultation was carried out to get the real assessment of implementation of the MTDP III and provide the basis for the formulation of the MTDP IV 2023-2027.

- The department also progressed to establish sectoral coordination mechanisms with sector agencies across Government to ensure better management and coherence of programmes and resources supporting the sector. It is important that major investments are viewed from a sector perspective, because it provides a holistic view of the sector's investments for the country and work through strategic interventions, accordingly.

- Development cooperation coordination and resource mobilisation progressed with development partners who are fundamental to supporting PNG's development agendas. We continue to be engaged with our development partners to ensure better coordination and alignment of resources with the Government's priorities.

- There has been progressive work on the National Identity Document (NID) Project that the Department is fully supporting. There are big targets for complete NID registrations to the lead up to 2022 General Elections and it is important for the Government's continued support and that of provinces and districts administrations which require collaborative efforts with the Civil Identity Registry to successfully rollout NID registrations across the country.

- Audit and compliance arrangements that are established in DNPM. This is an important achievement as it allows DNPM to carry through check and balances with the books internally and even with Public Investment Programmes that are red-flagged.

- Effective operation and management of programme management units under the oversight of DNPM. This includes the National Affordable Land and Housing Programme, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (or WaSH) Programme, and the Nutrition Policy Programme.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Department of National Planning and Monitoring has been given the onerous task of translating the Government's vision and policies into strategic and pragmatic outcomes. This remains central to our core business of coordinating development in the country through strategic alignments of sector plans and policies to the MTDP III and

the Alotau Accord and leading the coordination of the Public Investment Programs and Projects for effective service delivery to our people.

We take note of the high-level agendas of Government covering:

- Connect PNG
- The agriculture sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (or MSMEs)
- It is noted that Provincial and District Service Improvement Programs is a fundamental accelerator of growth for our people at the sub-national levels.
- We work to ensure that we are producing an educated and healthy population, creating opportunities for more Papua New Guineans and boosting human capital that is equipped with the right knowledge, skills and attitudes to drive and sustain PNG's economic growth.

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions in the country have disrupted our schedules for thorough monitoring of public investment programmes, I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that we have managed to engage with a majority of our implementing agencies to ascertain and oversee performance of projects and programmes.

We have also managed to kick-start and carry through relevant consultations on key policies and legislative requirements relevant to DNPM hence, progressive work is reported confidently.

The Ways Forward

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst the department has been strained with a number of challenges both on the technical and administrative fronts, we are working diligently to ensure that these are addressed and managed in a timely manner so that our core deliverables are progressing smoothly.

We endeavor to work rigorously to deliver our mandated tasks and ensure that the ultimate goals of the MTDP III are delivered for the benefit of the people of Papua New Guinea. We are not only setting the critical foundations of taking back PNG, we are also setting the pace to growing an economy that has great potential in trade, investment and delivery of its development agenda.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LAW REFORM COMMISSION ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR 2018, 2019 AND 2020 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Mr BRYAN KRAMER (Madang-Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – I present the following Paper pursuant to statute –

*Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Performance Reports
for 2018, 2019 and 2020*

Mr Speaker, I ask leave of the Parliament to make a statement in connection with the report.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker and Members of this Honorable House, it is with great pleasure that I present to Parliament the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Reports for 2018, 2019 and 2020. The Annual Reports highlights the performance of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (referred to thereafter as the Commission) through each respective year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, despite numerous challenges faced by the Commission, it has completed all outstanding Annual Reports for respective years, 2018, 2019 and 2020 to become compliant with *section 10 of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Act 2004 (the Act)* and *section 32 (1) (a) of the Public Services (Management) Act 1995*.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Commission's vision is for "Papua New Guinea to have and maintain a just, fair and efficient legal system for a peaceful society based on democratic principles and the rule of law and the advancement of the nation's economic and social interest'

Therefore, to achieve the vision, the Commission prides itself in ensuring that it provides the Government with high level, independent advice on constitutional and other law

reform matters to promote community understanding of the law and the legal system of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Mr Deputy Speaker and members of this Honorable House, you have before you a copy of the three (3) Annual Reports under the leadership and guidance of former Minister for Justice and Attorney General Honourable Davis Steven, and served by duly appointed Commissioners.

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The Annual Reports reflect the comprehensive data highlighting all matters undertaken in each year respective from 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Report 2018

For the year 2018, Honourable Davis Steven, LLB, MP the former Minister for Justice and the Attorney-General, worked closely with the Commission under the leadership of Dr Eric Kwa Secretary (as he was then). In accordance with *Section 3(3)* of the *Act*, Commissioners are appointed by the Minister for Justice by notice in the National Gazette for a period of four years. The six (6) Commissioners are all engaged in major activities of the Commission on part-time basis, except for the Chairman, namely:

- (i) Honourable Robert Atiyafa, MP, Chairman;
- (ii) Mr. Gerhard Linge, LLB, LLM, Deputy Chair;
- (iii) Honourable, Dr. Allan Marat, LLB, LLM, PhD, MP, Commissioner;
- (iv) Honourable Dr. Kobby Bomareo, MMBS, BSc, MP, Commissioner;
- (v) Professor Mange Matui, LLB, LLM, PhD, Commissioner;
- (vi) Rev. Dr. William Longgar, BA, BTh, MTh, DMiss, Commissioner; and
- (vii) Dr. Fiona Hukula, BA, MA, PhD, Commissioner.

During the year 2018:

(1) The Commission Hosted three (3) important conferences, namely; Launch of Constitutional Directive 2: Review of the Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections and Related Electoral Laws and Systems o Launch of Issues Paper on TOR 12: Review of the Laws on alcohol and Drug, and o Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference,

(2) Was issued a Constitutional Directive No. 2 from the Head of State to Review the Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections and related electoral laws and systems; and

(3) Was issued a Referral from the Minister for Justice on Terms of Reference No. 12: Review of Laws on Alcohol and Drugs.

Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Report 2019

For the year 2019, Honourable Davis Steven, LLB, MP, former Minister for Justice and the Attorney General worked closely with the Commission under the leadership of Dorothy Mimiko-Kesenga as Deputy Secretary (as she was then). The six Commissioners and ex-officio member of 2018 continued the tremendous effort of overseeing, providing insight and guidance on the major activities of the Commission for the year 2019.

During the year 2019:

(1) The Commission participated in the National Land Development Program (NLDP) Phase II Workshop from the December 2-6, 2019 in Lae, Morobe Province;

(2) Continued to progress work on the Constitutional Directive No. 2 from the Head of State to Review the Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections and related electoral laws and systems that saw the Commissioners endorse the Final Reports Volumes 1 and 2 for presentation to Prime Minister.

(3) Was issued Referrals from the Minister for Justice on: Terms of Reference No. 9: Review of Laws on City Planning and Urban Development, completion of regional consultations and Issues Paper; and Terms of Reference No. 12: Review of Laws on Alcohol and Drugs, completion of nationwide consultation and produced draft report.

Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Report 2020

For the year 2020, Honourable Davis Steven, LLB, MP, former Minister for Justice and the Attorney-General (as he was then) worked closely with the Commission under the leadership of Dr. Mange Matui, Secretary.

The five Commissioners engaged in major activities of the Commission on part-time basis, except for the Chairman, namely:

- (i) Honourable Kevin Isifu, MP, Chairman;
- (ii) Dr. Fiona Hukula, BA, MA, Ph.D, Deputy Chair;
- (iii) Honourable Dr. Allan Marat, LLB, LLM, PhD, Commissioner;
- (iv) Rev. Dr. Jack Urame, BTh, MA, Ph.D, Commissioner;
- (v) Ms. Martha Kokiva, LLB, MBA, Commissioner.

During the year 2020:

(1) The Commission participated in four (4) major conference/workshop including school outreach awareness program on Human Rights.

(2) Successful completion of the review of Constitutional Directive No. 2: Review the Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections and Related Electoral Laws and Systems; and

(3) Successful completion of Referrals from the Minister for Justice on:

Terms of Reference No. 9: Review of Laws on City Planning and Urban Development produced Issues Paper;

Terms of Reference No. 12: Review of Laws on Alcohol and Drugs produced Report, August 2020.

Work in progress from 2020 to date: -

Terms of Reference (TORs), Total of 16 TORS, four (4) completed and 12 remain pending to be progressed. Development of the Underlying Law the Commission drafted an Underlying Law Research and Monitoring Strategy & Action Plan 2021-2031. This will be implemented through customary law recording, case law monitoring and research and development; Advising other government departments the Commission currently has 36 requests for reviewing of laws. From the 36 requests, 9 are active files; and 0 Monitoring reformed laws on TOR No. 05: Review of Incorporated Land Group and Design of a System of Voluntary Customary Land Registration.

Challenges

Insufficient annual funding allocated to the Commission; Low retention rate of staff due to unattractive remuneration rates; Deteriorating office building from the last three years saw the need for the relocation of Commission. The relocating exercise resulted in a change in management and staff coupled with financial constraints and as such, the Commission was unable to print the Annual Reports, causing a prolonged delay in progressing the tabling of the three outstanding Annual Reports for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Commission is one of the state agencies that is up to date with submission of its Annual Reports. The Commission's performance output during the various years illustrates sustained improvement and refinement of services and more importantly delivering on its performance commitments for the respective fiscal year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with that, I humbly submit the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Annual Reports for 2018, 2019 and 2020 to this Honourable House.

Motion -That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

15/02

**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW REFORM COMMISSION – TERMS OF
REFERENCE NO.12: REVIEW OF THE LAWS ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Mr BRYAN KRAMER (Madang-Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – I present the following Paper pursuant to statute.

*Terms of Reference No 12 Report and Review of Laws on the Use and Abuse of
Alcohol and Drugs in Papua New Guinea.*

Mr Speaker, I ask leave of the Parliament to make a statement in connection with the report.

Leave granted.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to present to the members of this honourable House, with great pleasure, the Terms of Reference No. 12: Report on the Review of the Laws on the Use and Abuse of Alcohol and Drugs in Papua New Guinea.

In 2015, the then Minister for Justice and Attorney General, honourable Ano Pala, directed the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission to conduct a review of the laws relating to the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. The review came about because of several reasons. These included:

- (a) Firstly, was the lack of specific policies governing the use of alcohol and drugs.
- (b) Secondly, was the absence of data on the number incidents related to the abuse of alcohol and drugs.
- (c) Thirdly, there was an increase in the number of media reports about the problems associated with the use and abuse of drugs,

(d)And finally, there was a need to develop appropriate penalties to strengthen the regulating mechanisms related to alcohol and drugs. The Minister directed the Commission to review, all the laws relating to the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs, provide practical recommendations for appropriate penalties to meet current circumstances and recommend effective roles, methods and control measures to reduce the damage caused by the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs in societies, settlements, towns and cities throughout PNG.

The review was to be done in consultation with relevant stakeholders namely the:

- (a)National Department of Health;
- (b)National Narcotics Bureau;
- (c)Liquor Licensing Board;
- (d)National Youth Authority;
- (e)National Council of Churches;
- (f)Department for Community Development and Religion;
- (g)National Council of Women;

(h)Laloki Psychiatric Hospital; and Royal PNG Constabulary. Whilst the Commission was working on this review, the O'Neil Government issued the second Constitutional Directive, directing the Commission to Review the *Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections in 2018* that included a nationwide consultation. This resulted in the review being delayed. After the completion of the second Constitutional Directive in 2019, the Commission went on to produce the final report which is now before the Members of this honourable House, on the Floor of Parliament.

The Final Report, produced by the Commission, has been thoroughly researched. Both stakeholder's views and the people's views have been captured. This information was further reviewed by the Technical Working Committee, who then used it to produce the final report.

The Final Report is a culmination of the views and recommendations sourced during the consultations. The Commission, after careful analysis of the information, has submitted 21 recommendations in the Final Report. The recommendations are cross-cutting from legal, policy to administrative (institutional) reforms. These proposed recommendations are simple, practical, progressive and evidence based, as they have been generated from the information gathered during the Commission's research and consultations. We are hopeful that these recommendations can be implemented to address most of the issues relating to the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs in PNG.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with that, I humbly submit the Terms of Reference No.12: Review of the Laws on the Use and Abuse of Alcohol and Drugs in Papua New Guinea to this Honourable House.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT 2019 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED**

Mr BRYAN KRAMER (Madang-Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – I present the following Paper pursuant to statute:

Judicial and Legal Services Commission Annual Report 2019.

Mr Speaker, I ask leave of the Parliament to make a statement in connection with the report.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I present to Parliament the Judicial and Legal Service Commission Annual Report 2019. The Annual Report provides an overview of the work of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and its achievement in 2019.

Mr Deputy Speaker, despite numerous challenges faced by the Commission, it acknowledges that the annual report preceding 2019 and dating back to 1983 are outstanding largely owing to the lack of capacity of the Commission itself. This submission has noted that while the secretariate was preparing the 2019 Annual Report in compliance with the requirements of Section of the Organic Law on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission,

in this regard the Commission apologises and assures that the Head of State and Parliament that the Commission will endeavor to ensure that the outstanding annual reports are forthcoming.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Commission is a constitutional institution established under *Section 183 of the Constitution* and its functions under the Organic Law on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission are mainly to:

- conduct continuous review of jurisdiction,
- practice and procedures of all courts except the Supreme and National Courts,
- make recommendations to the Constitutional Law and Reform Commission for legislative changes to jurisdiction, practice and procedure,
- ensure adequate staffing for the courts,
- ensure adequate and proper logistics relating to the exercise of jurisdiction of all courts are compiled and kept.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Commission in compliance with its mandatory functions under the Constitution met on eight occasions in 2019. The Commission has the power to appoint and remove law officers and officers of the court necessary for the proper administration of justice.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the members of this Honourable House have before them a copy of the Commission's Annual Report for 2019. The key highlights include the work of the Commission and challenges. During the year, the Commission appointed 11 judges to the National Court including acting judges. They appointed a new deputy Chief Justice, appointed 8 senior provincial magistrates, appointed 12 new magistrates of the district court, approved the establishment of a stand-alone secretariate as pursuant to the requirements of section 12 of the Organic Law on the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

16/02

Mr Deputy Speaker, the challenges faced by the Commission is a need to expand to deliver on its mandate and its constitutional requirements to improve the efficiency and the administration of justice under the Constitution, the Organic Law and other acts of Parliament and its services delivery.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with that I humbly submit the Judicial and Legal Services Commission Annual Report for 2019 to this Honourable House.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to

Motion – That the Parliament take note of paper – agreed to

Paper noted.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen – Minister for Finance and Rural Development) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without Notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Notice Nos. 293 and 285, Government Business, being called on forthwith.

MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED AUTHORIZATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr James Marape** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the Second Reading forthwith.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – (Tari-Pori–Prime Minister and Minister for Bougainville Affairs) – I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Bill allows for governance procedures relating to the appointment of directors on the Mineral Resource Development Company Limited (MRDC) Board and the election of Directors for MRDC Company Board to commence as mandated by its representative company constitution.

The Bill rectifies the unintended consequences of the current provision and the principal act in that it prevents the refreshing of representational mandate for directors on the MRDC Board as well as the project area land owner representations or directors on the respective MRDC Company Boards, by subjecting it to the respective MRDC Company Constitution and the *Companies Act 1997*.

The refreshing of representational mandate is critical for validity and community support for the MRDC group. It instils a culture of accountability of the board, especially board members who are project area landowner representation and is also an important aspect of good governance and transparency

The principal act relating to the ownership of MRDC, as well as its roles and responsibilities as a corporate trustee manager remains unaffected.

It is only the administrative arrangements governing the appointment of the directors on the board of MRDC. MRDC Company Board are proposed to be changed in this Bill to align with the *Companies Act 1997*.

This Bill is necessary as it will allow for governors' procedures relating to the MRDC Board and the election of Directors for the MRDC Company Board commences by its representation company constitution.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is no other consequential amendments to other regulations.

I commend the Bill to the House, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the Third Reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a third time – agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

17/02

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Rainbo Paita** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen-Minister for National Planning and Monitoring) –

I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the proposed amendment to the Public Private Partnership Amendment Bill is for the legislation that is already enforced under the *PPP Act* that was passed some years ago. The consequential amendments that we are proposing is for the inclusion of key government agencies that were not included in the initial legislation thus the inclusion of my department as a partner in the *PPP Act*.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to

Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending the expenditure of public monies in Papua New Guinea insofar as the Bill relates to and provides for such expenditure.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the Third Reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr Rainbo Paita**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to

Motion – That the bill be now read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority of 56 Members, Mr Deputy Speaker ordered that the Bells be rung.

18/02

(Voting in progress)

19/02

The Parliament voted (the Deputy Speaker, **Mr Koni Iguan**, in the Chair) –

AYES – 63

NOES – 0

Bill passed with the concurrence of an absolute majority as required by the *Constitution*.

Bill read a third time.

NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE – ANNUAL REPORTS 2013 & 2014 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – PAPER NOTED

Mr WESLEY RAMINAI (Kagua-Erave – Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science, Technology and Sports) – I present the following Paper pursuant to statute.

Annual Reports of the National Research Institute – 2013-2014.

I ask leave of Parliament to make a statement in connection with the report.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, it is my honour to present the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for one of the research institutions under my ministry, the National Research Institute (NRI).

Briefly, the NRI has a long history in PNG and was established well before many of our Universities, Research and Academic Institutions.

The NRI was originally established as the New Guinea Research Unit (NGRU) by the Australian Government through the Australian National University (ANU) in 1961.

20/02

The NGRU was first set up in Badili and then moved to Three Mile in 1965 and then eventually moved to its current site at Waigani in 1968.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at Independence in 1975, the NGRU was renamed the Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research (IASER) and had its functions, powers and objectives through legislation under the IASER Act 1975.

In 1988, the the Education Research Unit (ERU) of the University of PNG was moved to IASER, thus expanding IASER's scope of research. A year later (1989), the National Executive Council (NEC) approved a change of name for the institute to the National Research Institute (NRI).

Mr Deputy Speaker, the change of name was formalised by legislation four years later (in 1993) through the *National Research Institute Act 1993*. A year later, the Cultural Studies function of the Institute of PNG Studies was transferred to the NRI which again expanded the responsibilities of the NRI just like the transfer of the ERU from UPNG in 1988.

The mandate of NRI is to contribute to development by conducting quality, theoretical and applied research into areas such as cultural, economic, educational, environmental, political and social concern. It is further mandated to generate research information for debate and discussion to aid informed decision-making by the Government, private sector, civil society and ordinary people. These are done through publications, seminars, workshops, conferences, research reports and special reports based on specific engagement by concerned government departments and agencies, and others.

The NRI is an independent statutory government authority by virtue of its composition of the governing body, the Council. The Council membership (per Section 8 of NRI Act) comprises of a Chairman; two Members of Parliament; a Community Representative; Academic Staff Representatives from UPNG and UNITECH; Departmental Heads for National Planning and the Personnel Management Departments; and the Institute's Director and Staff Representative.

The Chairman of Council is appointed by the Head of State while the Deputy Chairman is appointed by the Council members (as per Section 8 of the NRI Act). The institute reports directly to the Council with limited responsibilities to direction from the Minister and Departments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the independence by which NRI conducts research is to ensure the research and policy focus are determined by the needs of the people of PNG and that its outputs and recommendation is independent and without bias for the Government to accept or reject or to implement where it is necessary in the wisdom of the Government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the NRI is the country's major public policy "Think Tank". Through its research programs and projects, the Institute advocates for the development of sound economic and social policies in order to improve the welfare of our people.

The NRI's research programs are guided by the country's development plans, including the PNG Vision 2050, PNG Development Strategic Plan (2010-2030), the Medium Term Development Plans, and the government's sectoral plans, as applicable from time to time.

NRI's research areas are tailored towards addressing development issues facing contemporary PNG society, but keeping well in mind the medium to long-term needs of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the *Public Finances (Management) Act* requires any government instrumentality including the NRI to have its financial reports audited annually by the Auditor General. The *NRI Act 1975* (Amended 1993), requires the Council to present its annual report detailing its operations and finance of the preceding year ending 31 December, as soon as practicable after 31 March in the following year, to be tabled in parliaments and as required by the *NRI Act* and PFMA, the Institute's financial statements are audited by the Office of the Auditor-General. The reports presented herewith contain the 2013 and 2014 Audited Financial Statements. As per the *NRI Act*, the financial statements for 2014 were presented to the Auditor General 's Office. The audited report was finalised in June 2015. However, due to oversight and changes in Ministers, the reports were not presented to the NEC and Parliament.

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As per the MRI Act, the financial statements for 2014 were presented to the Auditor General 's Office. The Audited Report was finalised in June 2015. However, due to oversight and changes in Ministers, the reports were not presented to the NEC and Parliament.

M Deputy. Speaker, the Institute's 2013 and 2014 annual research and support activities were guided by the annual work plans. The annual work plans are prepared in January and endorsed by the NRI Council for implementation.

During the year, four quarterly reports are presented by the research programs and Corporate Services Division to the NRI Senior Executive Management and to the NRI Council as progress reports against the annual work plan deliverables. The quarterly reports for 2013 and 2014 were compiled and prepared as annual reports.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the major highlights of various research and policy outputs for the years are: -

(a) Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development

SME Policy is an important policy of the Government hence NRI research on how SME's can be developed and nurtured to play a pivotal role in creating employment, generating income and wealth; and providing opportunities for the people.

(b) Management of Benefits from Natural Resource

PNG has many natural resources and requires prudent management and investment in real tangible development for the people. The NRI was engaged in discussions in creating sound Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) to better manage anticipated huge LNG revenue.

The NRI recommended that since the first LNG Exports in 2014, it was critical to establish the SWF to manage LNG revenues as the macroeconomic and governance risks involved with SWF is high.

PNG lags behind in social and economic development, compared to many other countries of similar resource endowments such as Malaysia and China.

(c) Promoting Effective Public Expenditure

Research into public expenditure and service delivery effectiveness through public forums and discussions of research findings with policy makers, department officers and the general public.

(d) National Land Development Program

The research and outcomes from this program is tailored towards unlocking land for development. It is intended that landowners continue to have ownership and receive incomes through rentals or use their land as collateral to generate income and opportunities for themselves.

The people of PNG own the land and have potential for development but these options are limited without government policy support in promoting agriculture, SME and general business.

(e) National Housing Policy Implementation Taskforce

The research continues into the housing market and the implementation of the Housing and real Estate Industry Review sanctioned by Government through the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC).

We see both legal and illegal settlements emerging on the outskirts and even within cities and towns due to housing shortage and high rentals. Also there is land grabbing and corruption within government departments that allows non-citizens or people from other customary groups or provinces to be granted Lease-Lease-Back and Freehold Titles, when it is illegal to do so.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the NRI's core function of research is always almost compromised with the National Government providing mostly recurrent funding for salary and wages and general upkeep such as utilities. Over the years, the funding for Research has been drastically reduced until there is little or none in the Budget. Most research is funded through internal revenue from the few houses put out on rent; payment for consultancy and specific research; sale of publications; and hire of conference facilities.

In 2013, total Government grant was K5.1 million and total operating expenses was K7.5 million. The NRI internal revenue was K2.2 million in Project Income and Consultancies; and Internal Business Income of K2 million from management and course fees, rental income and publications. This resulted in surplus of K1.8 million carried into 2014 to fund the Research activities of the NRI.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, in 2014, the total Government grant was reduced to K4.9 million and total operating expense was K9.7 million. Additional funding of K5 million was sourced by NRI from:

- (a) Internal Revenue management /course fees K800,000
- (b) Rental Income K800,000
- (c) Projects Income & Consultancy K1.8 million
- (d) Australian Aid K1.6 million

Mr Deputy Speaker, the National Research Institute Council foresaw the risks of the operations of the Institute. The National Government would forgo its responsibilities and has been reducing Research funding and was cutting down on recurrent funding as well.

Further, the focus of NRI on consultancy work and research for generating revenue took away from its researchers from performing the core function of independent policy research. Also, reliance on donor research financing could compromise the independence of the NRI and also is not sustainable in the long run.

Mr Deputy Speaker, based on the aforementioned reasons, the Council directed the Institute to put key research projects on hold due to funding limitations from the National Government.

As mentioned and included in both Annual Reports, the Institute receives limited budgetary support from the Government. I hope that the Government gives due consideration to NRI which is mandated by the government Think Tank.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I now commend the 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements to this Parliament.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK – STATUS AND FUTURE
PLANS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AGRICULTURE SECTOR –
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER.**

Mr JOHN SIMON (Maprik – Minister for Agriculture and Livestock) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand today in this honorable House with great honor to deliver the "Status and Future Plans for Papua New Guinea Agriculture Sector" with the theme: 'Unlocking the Potential of Agriculture for Economic Independence for Papua New Guinea.'

Mr Deputy Speaker, when God created the universe 'He' created the 'Garden of Eden' on earth and on it 'He' made man and woman in 'His' own image. He told them to provide stewardship over the garden, toil the land and multiply from it, so agriculture has been there ever since.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I deliver this statement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister for having trust and confidence and appointing me as the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, responsible for the Agriculture Sector. I must say that I have learned a lot and it has been a challenge and an experience to be responsible for one of the core agencies of the Government, which is the backbone of this country.

My presentation today is on the Department of Agriculture and Livestock as the lead agency of the Agriculture Sector, Commodity Boards and other Institutions within the Agriculture Sector.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Agriculture Sector has a special place in the history of this country. It was one of the very first institutions established during the colonial era as the Division of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF). After Independence, it was renamed as

the Department of Primary Industry (DPI), and it is now known as the Department of Agriculture & Livestock (DAL).

The Agriculture Sector is comprised of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock as the lead agency, the PNG Cocoa Board, the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC), Oil Palm Industry Corporation (OPIC), Kokonas Industri Koporesen (KIK), Rubber Board, Livestock Development Corporation (LDC), National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA), the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA), the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), and the PNG Spice Industry Board (PNGSIB).

Being the lead agency in the Agriculture Sector, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock maintains its primary role in providing the appropriate leadership in policy and technical advisory support services to all Stakeholders in the Sector.

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The PNG Cocoa Board, the Coffee Industry Corporation, the Kokonas Industri Koporesen and the Oil Palm Industry Corporation all share similar functions respective to their sub-sectors in the provision of research, extension, marketing and quality control as well as matters of finance.

In terms of research, the Rubber Board and the PNG Spice Board do not carry out research. The Oil Palm Industry Corporation only provides extension services for smallholder growers in certified provinces.

The Livestock Development Corporation is responsible for all livestock and is purely a business entity and operates as a commercial entity under the Companies Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Rubber Board structure has been approved by the Department of Personal Management and operates as a secretariat. Its Amended Act is pending the Third Reading of the Bill, which hopefully will be in the next session of Parliament.

The PNG Spice Board is still under DAL, although it has its own board with an existing Act, it is not a fully-fledged standalone entity on its own.

The National Agriculture Quarantine & Inspection Authority is responsible for PNG's plant and animal Bio Security and trade facilitation of livestock inspection. NAQIA is currently in the process of formulating a National Bio-Security Policy.

The Fresh Produce Development Agency provides extension services and facilitates product quality and marketing for food crops, mainly the introduced temperate foods and vegetables.

The National Agriculture Research Institute carries out scientific research in specific areas of agriculture however, it now operates under the umbrella of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Research.

The Importance of Agriculture

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Agriculture Sector provides revenue, employment, food and social security and raw primary products for downstream and upstream processing industries. Agriculture is the backbone of Papua New Guinea's economy. It plays an important role apart from being our source of providing food. It is the livelihood of the vast majority of the people of this nation. It is also the main source of raw materials, whether its cotton, sugar and cooking oil, they all originate out of agriculture. Agriculture is different in many ways be it manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, diesel fuel, plastic, and many more. Agriculturally speaking, in fact the economic health of any country depends on how much of the raw materials are in the country in volumes, tones and mass.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the country's international trade also depends on agriculture, both import and export and also have an impact on the foreign exchange of this country either adversely or favorably. It plays a major role in the revenue of this nation. The Agriculture Sector provides employment of which 80 per cent of our entire population is employed either in the informal sector or formal sector. Our economy is 80 to 90 per cent rural based where majority of the population lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the state of agriculture can reflect our future when it comes to wealth, population, climate change and the environment. Agriculture is always affected in big time when there are major natural disasters occurring. I can go on and name the consequences and the effect it has on our daily lives, and how important this sector is to any economy in the world today including Papua New Guinea.

Revenue

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and pay special tribute to our forefathers, in the likes of the Founding Fathers of this great nation who ensured agriculture gave the economic foundation for an Independent Papua New Guinea. Prior to Independence in 1975, the Agriculture Sector was the major revenue earner for this country. Agriculture contributed 70 to 80 per cent of our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It was the Agriculture Sector that provided the strong foundation for the economy of our country to gain Independence.

It was the Agriculture Sector that provided the strong foundation for the economy of our country to gain independence.

Currently GDP from the Agriculture Sector has dropped to only 26% and is valued at K 18.4 billion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, currently, it is estimated that the Agriculture Sector generates K2.4 billion in revenue annually. The Bank of Papua New Guinea reports over the preceding twelve (12) year period from 2009 to 2020 that K20 billion was generated from export commodities with annual average revenue of K2 billion.

It is also estimated that, smallholder farmers generate more than K440 million annually mainly from the sale of primary produce in the informal sector, and can be improved with technology and into advance agriculture with machineries, cottage sectors and other industries.

In fact, Papua New Guinea can do better than K2.4 billion annually to K5 to K10 billion annually. Papua New Guinea has the potential with more than 200 square kilometers of arable agricultural land still available to do agriculture in a much larger scale.

Food and Nutrition Security

Mr Deputy Speaker, food security in Papua New Guinea is crucial, but it is a poorly defined agenda in Papua New Guinea's development agenda, due to the lack of data to assess its four (4) dimensions namely; availability, accessibility, utilization and the stability.

However, food and nutrition security in Papua New Guinea is confronted with a number of key challenges such as, high level of poverty, high level of malnutrition; and high risk of climate change or climate variability caused by the recent past droughts.

Poverty level in the rural areas is high at about 39%, which limits our people's economic access to sufficient healthy nutritious foods.

This is a major concern and every effort must be made by all of us, supported with finances to address this very important aspect of health concerns which is affecting our very people and the kind of population that is growing in this country.

The malnutrition problem in PNG is indicated by high level of stunting of 48% in children under the age of five (5).

Suitable agricultural and health approaches are being used by agriculture and health agencies and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, like the Education Department to address the malnutrition problem.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the agricultural approach to improve protein consumption involves farm diversification by integrating protein rich food into the farming systems, mainly, through livestock and aquaculture farming and cultivation of nutrient rich food crops.

The main climatic threat to food security in Papua New Guinea, is the El Nino drought. The lack of water caused by the drought, reduce food production and severely affect food security for the large population especially in rural areas, who are most vulnerable to this climatic event.

El Nino climate event is now occurring frequently, and the last event is in 2015-2016 which affected about three (3) million Papua New Guineans.

Mr Deputy Speaker, drought tolerant food crop varieties and small-scale irrigation technologies are available in Papua New Guinea, which can be delivered to farmers to enhance the resilience of their food systems to adverse effects of climate change.

This is the responsibility not only for Department of Agriculture and Livestock, but for all of us as leaders as well, because food is everyone's business.

Promotion of local food production to replace imports

Mr Deputy Speaker, Papua New Guinea relies heavily on food imports to complement its local food production. Papua New Guinea imports huge quantities of food from abroad to meet its domestic food requirement, worth more than K2 billion every year.

Papua New Guinea's National Development Policies such as PNG Vision 50 advocate for local food production and import substitution to achieve food self-sufficiency.

Let me also acknowledge and thank the current Pangu-led Marape Government, for its support for local food production and the food import substitution through the allocation of K20 million in the Agriculture Intervention Program.

For the local food production, it is being reintroduced by the Covid-19 pandemic and that has disrupted local and international food supply chains of main staples like rice and wheat.

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Through the allocation of K20 million in the Agriculture Intervention Program.

For the local food production is being re-introduce by the Covid-19 pandemic and that has disrupted local and international food supply chains of main staples like rice and wheat, this is in gracious of what happened when covid-19 hit and government gave a lot of support to all the districts to support the market.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the disruption of international supply chain of rice will have a major impact on food security in Papua New Guinea, since rice is a major food staple in Papua New Guinea and Papua New Guineans relies heavily on imported rice from countries like Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and China for its rice supplies and as a result of this, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock has now taken measures to promote local commercial rice production to achieve rice self-sufficiency and building up buffer stock against the future disruption to international rice supply chains.

Agriculture Statistics

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is currently a little or lack of "Agriculture Data". The last Papua New Guinea Agriculture Census was conducted during the colonial era in the 1960s and since then, Papua New Guinea has not conducted any Agricultural Census.

It is urgent that Papua New Guinea conduct an Agricultural Census to collect up-to-date and accurate data on agriculture production and other related data.

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock has taken the necessary steps to increase its Agriculture Statistics Unit staff and improving connectivity with field personnel and upgrading its data base.

Social Security

Mr Deputy Speaker, agriculture contributes to "Social Security" in areas such as law and order, housing, education, health, cultural activities and other needs of our people. Unless the Government and relevant agencies responsible for social behavioral patterns for the growing population of our younger generation and do something more constructive, the country will continue to see escalating law and order problems.

Industrial Needs

Mr Deputy Speaker, agriculture provides most of the raw primary products for downstream processing industries. For example, many cocoa farmers have commenced converting their produce into chocolate, honey producers are packaging their raw honey while coconut extracts also include body lotions & creams, and spice crops are converted into powders for culinary use. The bulk of the raw products are exported while only a little is utilized in the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to create and improve market access for all farmers to add value to our raw products and hard work. Farmers are crying out for improve market access

and better pricing for their produce. Market access can only be achieved through building and strengthening of business partnerships between farmers and their private sector partners;

Building and strengthening of 'networking' between markets, farmers and their private sector partners along the supply chain and;

Modernizing and strengthening of Government institutions systems and building of their capacities in facilitating Local and International Trade. This is where support from the Provinces and Districts is critical to establish "Central Buying Points" in every District to assist our farmers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to add on to this, this Government is embarked on every district to set up a buying point and we are here to see most districts standing up and vying for it.

I would like to say congratulations to Member for Kundiawa, he has a buying point that is buying all the fresh food from his farmers and shipping them down to Port Moresby. We'd like to see all districts doing the same.

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Roles and Responsibilities of Dal

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock is the Lead Government Agency responsible for effective and efficient management of the Agriculture Sector in Papua New Guinea.

Its mandate is to provide professional policy advice, policy reviews, and policy formulation on agriculture, coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the government policies and directives in the agriculture sector, and provide technical and administrative support that leads to the optimal performance of the Agriculture Sector of Papua New Guinea.

Key Challenges for Dal

Mr Deputy Speaker, when I took office in 2019 as Minister for Agriculture, I realized there were a number of challenges in the Department. These included administration, human resource development, good governance, policy gaps, budget issues and connectivity with Provinces, Districts and other stakeholders.

46. There was "no visibility of agricultural activities and connectivity" with DAL and the respective sub-sectors and as a result DAL was lost due to the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments, the Decentralization of Powers, Corporatization of the Commodity Boards and Climate Change. We have a huge potential to empower and give economic independence to our people.

Immediate Priority Areas – Administration

Mr Deputy Speaker, in respect of recent events within the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, let me inform this Honorable House that the NEC appointed an Acting Secretary. The Acting Secretary and his management team have been tasked to put in appropriate and reliable corrective measures to bring the Department back to normalcy.

Immediate measures include the formulation of several priority Sector Plans and Policies, which have been outstanding. These plans are consistent with the Government's planning processes such as Vision 2050, MTDP III and the Loloata Accord 2021.

For instance;

- i) Papua New Guinea Agriculture Strategic and Corporate Plan 2023-2027
- ii) The Agriculture White Paper
- iii) Agriculture Medium Term Development Plan (2023-2027)
- iv) Annual Strategic Plan (2022)
- v) Commodity Price Support Policy
- vi) National Seed Policy
- vii) Agriculture MSME Policy

Those are the outstanding and we have instructed the Acting Secretary. So the acting Secretary and the Department are working to bring those policies up to date.

Papua New Guinea Strategic and Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Agriculture Sector currently has a policy vacuum after the expiry of the National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP) in 2016. The Department is now formulating a new Sector Plan to be known as the Papua New Guinea Strategic and Corporate Plan 2023-2027. It is seeking support from the Government and other development partners to develop this plan. The plan divides the country into 22 Economic Zones, identifying the resource potential in each Province.

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These 22 economic zones would then be subdivided into districts LLGs and wards from which appropriate short-term and long-term subsector plan can be formulated, which I will briefly present when I go through its subsector individually.

This plan shall take into consideration the interests of the key stakeholders in the supply chain from mobilization of customary land to farming to manufacturing of agriculture products and by-products, and finally to the consumers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it shall recognize the importance for supporting and incentivizing developmental and private sector programs that landowners will buy into so that their customary land can be released for wealth creation and economic growth.

It will explore new, innovative and practical solutions for productive, climate-smart and sustainable food systems in light of the challenges we face in food security, climate change, changing consumer demands and use of new technologies.

The DAL has secured some support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank under the Partnership in Agriculture Commercialization and Diversification (PACD) to develop this plan. However, this funding is still inadequate and additional support is needed to complete the plan.

These plans are a very fundamental documents which contains the policy trust, administration and operational and resources guidelines for the department and sector players. I am appealing for the government to provide adequate funding to help complete this document.

Alignment of the Sub-Sector (Commodity Board) Plans to MTDP III (2018-2022)

Mr Deputy Speaker, consistent with the MTDP II and MTDP III, and *Alotau Accord II*, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock and the Commodity Boards are focusing on increased production, increased revenue, increased food and income security, import replacement and downstream processing.

Commodity Boards apart from their regulatory responsibilities are rolling out the regional and district by district nursery programs in their respective commodities, in strategic locations to increase production. The World Bank (WB), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and European Union (EU) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, also supports most of these programs.

Functional Expenditure Review (FER)

Mr Deputy Speaker, NEC in its Decision No. 124/2014 endorsed the following recommendations of the Functional Expenditure Review (FER).

- (a). Agriculture Administration Adjustment (AAA) Bill,
- (b). Agriculture Investment Corporation (AIC) Bill, and
- (c). Review of Commodity Board Acts.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the two (2) outstanding Legislative Bills, the Agriculture Administrative Adjustment Bill (AAA) and the Agriculture Investment Corporation (AIC) Bill since 2014 were required to provide the necessary legal framework for the Department of

Agriculture and Livestock to effectively perform its leading roles. The Deputy Secretary and his team are now attending to these long outstanding issues.

In 2014 the National Executive Council (NEC) endorsed 32 recommendations of the FER. It is now a priority of the department to strengthen the overall administration and governance of the Agriculture Sector in respect of the two (2) Bills.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the National Executive Council also recommended the review of the *Commodity Boards and Agencies Acts*. The reform team established that there was a lack of an overarching legislative framework for the Agriculture Sector in Papua New Guinea. The National Executive Council approved the team's recommendations which endorsed the team to draft the nine (9) Commodity Boards and Agency Sub-sectors, there are four (4) *Commodity Board Acts* that have become outdated and need to be reviewed. These are:

- (a). Livestock Development Corporation Act,
- (b). Oil Palm Industry Corporation Act,
- (c). Rubber Industry Act and
- (d). Spice Industry Board Act.

Dal Corporate Plan and Restructure

Mr Deputy Speaker, the last Department of Agriculture and Livestock's Corporate Plan was in 2000 and therefore outdated. The department is currently formulating new Corporate Plan (2022-2026) which will define its roles and functions of as the lead agency in the sector. The Corporate Plan will encompass collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders of the Sector.

To complete this exercise, the department needs the support of the Departments of Personnel Management and Department of Finance.

Strengthening Connectivity in the Agriculture Sector

Mr Deputy Speaker, immediately after Independence, "decentralization" took place, which resulted in the transfer of agriculture extension functions to the provinces. As a result of this legislation and further reforms due to the 1995 Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government (OLP&LLG) and the *District Development Authority (DDA) Act 2014*. The "disconnection" between the National Department of Agriculture and Livestock and the provinces took place weakening all processes of project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The line of communication has been distorted with the agriculture manager at the DDA level now reporting to the district CEO while the Agriculture and Livestock Advisor in the provinces reported to the administrator. This has isolated the National DAL from the rest.

The development of the plans, the AAA and *AIC Acts*, the amended *Commodity Acts* and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock Corporate Plan will empower and strengthen the connectivity between players in the Agriculture Sector.

Agriculture Extension Services in The Sector

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock respects the devolution of agriculture extension by the government to the lower level governments but without adequate resource support to the deliver extension services. The Sector needs more extension staff to provide the front-line support to the men and women involved in agriculture.

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Various means of digital communication, extension officer to farmer contact and any other related interventions need to be put in place, backed up with adequate resources in order to ensure connectivity is restored and improved at all levels.

Mr Speaker the most practical way of improving and strengthening connectivity is to address the current Extension System through the establishment of a Single-line Borderless Extension System. We need to seriously revisit and review the existing legislations (Decentralization, OLPG&LLG, and DDA) which are currently viewed as stumbling blocks for better extension services delivery in Papua New Guinea.

In the meantime, we will ensure greater connectivity through harnessing digital and radio communication technology, Extension Officer to farmer and community social contact and information exchanges, transport infrastructure and institutional linkages in the flow of services and information from National to sub-national levels of government.

DAL Regional Offices and Regional Resource Centres

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 1998 Department of Agriculture and Livestock established four regional offices in the four regions of Papua New Guinea in response to the Decentralization and *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government (OLP&LLG)*. These offices are located in Lae, Kokopo, Goroka and Port Moresby.

The regional offices were established to provide advisory and technical support to the Provinces and Districts and the Sector at large. These offices were created to serve as linkage between the National DAL, the Provinces and I Districts. However, since 2002 these offices were neglected due to budgetary constraints.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the new Corporate Plan (2022-2026) the Regional Offices and Regional Resource Centres will be strengthened through capacity building and resource support.

Agriculture Colleges

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Department plans to take back the three Agriculture Colleges namely Highlands Agriculture College, the Sepik Agriculture College, and the Popondetta Agriculture College to be able to train Certificate and Diploma holders in Agriculture Extension. The need for trained, experienced personnel to work with the people in the rural areas is essentially crucial and the Department is currently facing a dilemma in the shortage of trained field officers at the local level government and ward council areas. The call for this change is becoming urgent and therefore the Department is seriously looking at this option of taking back the agriculture colleges.

There is need to train more extension personnel specializing in major commodities such as; cocoa, coffee, coconut; rubber, tea, the staple foods and fresh produce and the livestock subsectors.

Government Support in Delivery of Services

Mr Deputy Speaker, the best conduit to deliver Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 and MTDP III and the Sector Plan is the Micro, Small to Medium Enterprises (MSME's through agriculture.

Therefore, I call on all other ministries and departments that, if there is any money parked for agriculture in your domains, please give it back to my Sector or Department so that it can be used for the rightful purpose and to develop the MSME's, the agriculture cooperatives, the agriculture extension services and providing support for up-and-coming agricultural entrepreneurs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with regards to the issues of transparency, accountability and applying good governance in the use of these funds; let me assure you that this shall be accorded with stringent control measures and acquittals to be completed on every Kina and Toea spent.

Tax Incentives

Mr Deputy Speaker, the tax incentives and concessions are aimed at assisting new investors as new players entering into the high risk, low value end of agriculture businesses in Papua New Guinea. These would help them to build brand names, customer base, and meaningful relationships based on non-price factors such as product quality, service, and patented features, environmental and civic involvement.

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If tax incentives are offered to the large-scale extractive industries, the question is why the agriculture businesses cannot enjoy the same incentives? Offering such incentives is bound to boost the SMEs and attract large-scale investments in the Agriculture Sector that can also pay taxes into the national coffers.

It is suggested that Papua New Guinea invite and enter into the Joint Declaration on Agriculture Cooperation together with the other Governments in the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) and other countries to come to PNG and work with our people develop the rich untouched resources we have.

Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me acknowledge the invaluable support from our Development Partners towards Papua New Guinea's agriculture development agendas over the years, the World Bank (WB), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Corporation (JICA), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) New Zealand, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Peoples Republic of China, Republic of China (ROC) Taiwan and others.

Currently, the following projects with funding support are given to the Agriculture Sector as new and ongoing from the Donors and Foreign Organisations.

Maket Bilong Vilis Fama Project

Mr. Speaker, in December 2017, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Board in Rome approved the Papua New Guinea "Maket bilong Vilis Fama" project worth US\$25 million. The IFAD co-financed the Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project (PPAP) and Market for Vilis Fama, which our smallholder cocoa, coffee and fresh produces, will and are enjoying.

Mr Deputy Speaker, allow me to acknowledge and thank the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). An Agreement between our Government and IFAD was signed by the Treasurer in August 2019. This soft loan will be repaid over a period of 25 years including a grace period of 5 years at 1.25 percent fixed interest plus a service fee of 0.75 percent per annum.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this project aims to deliver three (3) key objectives, and they are:

(a) Building and strengthening of 'business partnerships' between farmers and their private sector partners,

(b) Building and strengthening of 'networking' between markets, farmers and their private sector partners along the supply chain, and

(c) Strengthening of 'Government institutions, systems and building of their capacity' in facilitating local and international trade of PNG's fresh produce and horticultural products.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a counterpart funding of US\$2.00million (K7.0 million) will come from the Papua New Guinea Government. The project will be implemented over a six-year period in six (6) Provinces. Activities related to the fresh produce value chain will involve fresh produce component will be implemented in four (4) Provinces in the highland's region, namely, Western Highlands, Jiwaka, Simbu and Eastern Highlands and galip nuts component will be implemented in Morobe and East New Britain Provinces.

EU Streit Project Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment & Trade Project]

Mr Deputy Speaker, the EU funded the ST REIT Project for cocoa, vanilla, and riverine and coastal fisheries in East Sepik, and West Sepik Provinces totalling K340 million. The project will run for the next five (5) years ending in 2025. The project will eventually be extended to Madang and Morobe Provinces. It is a mega project in terms of the magnitude of funding, and has the potential to significantly boost Papua New Guinea's reputation as an all-out agricultural nation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we value the mega financing by the European Union (EU) for agriculture projects (cocoa, vanilla, riverine and coastal fisheries) in East Sepik and Sandaun Provinces. The same funding will eventually cover the Madang and Morobe Provinces.

DFAT Australia

Mr Deputy Speaker, we also appreciate the Australian Government through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Center for Agriculture and International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) for continued funding and technical support agriculture research and development in PNG.

29/02

Mr Deputy Speaker, we also appreciate the Australian Government through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Center for Agriculture and International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) for continued funding and technical support agriculture research and development in PNG.

Productive Partnership in Agriculture Projects

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Productive Partnership in Agriculture Project (PPAP) which was the soft loan facility from the World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and European Union (EU) to promote capacity for smallholder Cocoa and coffee farmers through the partnership project in selected provinces ended in June 2020. It was replaced by a new up scaled project, Partnership in Agriculture Commercialization and Diversification (PACD) which is worth US\$40 million or K120 million.

The successful PPAP model is now being up-scaled onto Partnership in Agriculture Commercialization and Diversification (PACD). The evaluation report as part of the I World Bank requirement is carried out by the World Bank Mission Team and the government and an independent team funded by IFAD will be released soon.

Partnership in Agriculture Commercialisation & Diversification Project

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Partnership in Agriculture and Commercialisation and Diversification Project (PACD) has been approved and work has commenced in September 2021. As the name indicates, PACD is to graduate farmers from the subsistence to commercial farming. Apart from cocoa and coffee, other crops like coconut, spices, and small livestock will be included. Let me acknowledge, thank and commend once again the Pangu-led Government, the Minister and the Department of Treasury for the leadership and support to get the negotiation with the World Bank finalized and approved of the Loan facility from the World Bank for a total US\$100 million or K300 million.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the successive governments over the years have been reluctant to adequately fund the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in its annual allocations for its operations. Let me acknowledge and thank the Pangu-led Marape Government in recognizing the Department of Agriculture and Livestock when for the first time a ceiling of K17 million has been approved for 2021 and K20 million for this year's budget.

We need budgetary support to support our plans in delivering of expected outcomes which many a times are hindered because of lack of sufficient funding. Given the lack of support, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock has not been able to provide adequate policy and plans required for improvements in Agriculture Sector.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the single biggest employer of our people is the Agriculture Sector both in the formal and informal sectors. It employs 6-7 million of the population in rural Papua New Guinea representing 85 per cent of the population. The majority of these people are involved in semi-subsistence agricultural activities. These farmers also produce the 80-90 per cent of our export crop commodities apart from oil palm which is managed by private companies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in terms of agriculture, we have two very important factors of production, which are land and labor. We have more than 200,000 square kilometers of arable land for agricultural purposes and we have 6-7 million people (labor) willing to cultivate these lands. Combining these two factors the country will change its status very quickly in realizing the outcomes of developing full potential of agriculture.

In this country we own the land and no one should be poor. If we would be encouraging our people to go back to their land, then two very important challenges need to be addressed. And they are access to markets and better prices for our commodities

Easier access to market means improving roads, rural airstrips and wharves and jetties. All roads and transport infrastructure programs must be aligned to Connect Papua New Guinea Economic Road Transport Infrastructure Development Program 2020-2040.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with price we must understand that our people are price takers and not price makers. The prices must be attractive to stimulate growth and production from our farmers.

What the government intends to do is to export our raw products to a central export agency so that we can bring the actual price to our farmers because at the moment our farmers are not paid the actual price.

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We support our farmers and we bring the cup or plate or real price to our farmers. At the moment our farmers do not get the price they deserve to get.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me acknowledge and thank the Pangu-led Marape Government for the gift of K50 million last year to our people through the price export and price support and that K24 million where distributed as follows;

- Coffee Industry Corporation K10 million
- PNG Cocoa Board K10 million
- Kokonas Industri Koporesen K4 million
- Rubber Board K2 million
- Spice Board K1 million
- Livestock Development Corporation K16 million
- Fresh Produce Development Agency K3 million
- Oil Palm Industry Corporation K2 million
- DAL Support K2 million

- Total of K50 million

Mr Deputy Speaker, for the very first time, we see any government directly invest more than K215 million into Agriculture; this is a confidence in the Sector and a step in the right direction.

- K50 million Price Support Intervention
- K111 million-Covid-19 fund which is direct intervention paid directly to Districts and Provinces

- K24 million-PIP Intervention
- K30 million-SME funding to NDB for Agriculture Intervention.

Which is confidence by this government to support the Agriculture sector with such an investment into the sector.

Mr Deputy Speaker, impact of the price support. The true impact of the Commodity Price Support will be felt in the next twelve to eighteen months because of the nature of the export commodity crops, however we did receive reports from coffee, cocoa and coconut industries, which is encouraging news from the sector.

The current data collected of the same period last year is very encouraging as it shows that production increase by 25 to 30 per cent the same period last year and we are expecting an increase to above 30 to 40 per cent in production volumes. Additional funding from the Government is a must to maintain the growth trend currently experienced in the commodities production levels.

Since the implementation of the price support program in coffee in February there has been an increase in exports and revenue in the first six months of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. In 2021 of the same periods a total of 192,652 bags were exported in 2020, compared to that in 2021, 228,362 bags were exported in 2021 a difference of 25,700 bags which is support of the Price Support.

Cocoa is the same story. Since the implementation of the Price Support Program there has been an increase in exports and revenue in the last six months of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. A total of 10,698 tons were exported in 2021, compared to a total of 8,000 tons in 2020 a difference of 2,604 tones.

Coconut is the same story.

In conclusion, Mr Deputy Speaker, Papua New Guinea is truly an agriculture-based economy with 80-85 per cent of our people living in the rural setting and trying to reach them

with limited resources of K50 million to 7 million farmers in Papua New Guinea is like distributing K7.00 to each farmer.

What is K7.00 to a farmer in the most remote parts of Papua New Guinea like Kaintiba when the estimated cost per kilo of doing business activities in agriculture in Papua New Guinea is K5 and above. That is just for production not to reach the market.

In order for us to reach the seven million Papua New Guineans with at least a K100 assistance each, instead of K7 then K700 hundred million kina is required. In reality, our farmers need K1 billion in Agriculture Price Support and Intervention Programs to give real Economic Independence to rural farmers that produce 90 per cent of our primary agriculture produce.

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We have started on the road to Economic Independence through agriculture and this journey must continue. The Agriculture Sector needs continuous support and funding in order for the Government to reach the bulk of our people, who live in the rural districts of our beautiful country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, throughout the length and width of this country, our people have the districts to represent them as well. It is the intention of the Pangu-led Marape Government to deliver the Commodity Price Support to all corners of our beloved country. Our people need nothing less than all our 89 districts to support this Pangu-led Marape Government to establish strategically located Central Buying Points in each district to support our people and this must be done without political boundaries. Establishing buying points to assist farmers in the districts is absolutely necessary.

Firstly, we must seek God's wisdom and guidance more strongly than ever before because the challenges confronting our country will be greater and more complex than those that confronted us over the last 46 years.

Secondly, our people are the most valuable and most important resource and we should never take them for granted. We are responsible for their wellbeing and we carry the wishes and the visions of our people. Every decision we make must always have an impact, be it for the better or for worse.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me therefore highly commend this Government in giving due recognition to the Agriculture Sector as the number one priority to grow and give Economic Independence to our people during these challenging times.

As the Lead Agency of the Agriculture Sector, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock stands ready and committed to embark on the planned reform activities to support the Government's agenda to grow and drive our economy towards creating economic independence in line with Vision 2050.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with these few words, I commend to this Peoples House and to our people of Papua New Guinea the "Status Report and Future Plans for the Papua New Guinea Agriculture Sector" and apologize for taking long because this is the first ever statement for this sector that I have brought to this House. Thank you

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of paper – agreed to

Paper noted.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable members let me remind the House, if you have your mobiles on, please put them on mute so that we don't have any vibration on the earpiece that we put on our ears. I don't want you to complain that you have an ear problem after the session.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr RAINBO PAITA (Finschhafen – Minister for National Planning and Monitoring)

–

I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent order of the day (a) Notice No.136,143,175,177,178,17,180,181,182,183,189,193,194,206,207,208,217,218,220,221,222,223,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,234 being called on forthwith

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING – PREPARATION OF CENSUS
IN 2020 – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 3 July 2019 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**MINISTRY OF TREASURY – FINANCING REQUIREMENT OF DEBT
STOCK ANALYSIS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 5 July 2019 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

32/02

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA –
PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
PAYMENTS AND ACQUITALS OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS
(DSIP, PSIP AND LLGSIP) FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2013 to 2016 –
PAPER – MOTION FOR ADOPTION**

Resumption of debate from 11 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 13 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH – STATUS OF THE GLOBAL OUTBREAK AND
NATURE OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND THE HEALTH SECTOR,
GOVERNMENT AND PARTNER’S RESPONSE AND MEASURES – MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 14 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE – MEDIUM
TERM TRANSPORT PLAN 2 (2019-2022) – VOLUMES 1 AND 2 – PAPERS AND
STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

Resumption of debate from 18 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK – ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 – PAPER
AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 20 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION – RECONVENING OF REGIONAL
AVIATION MINISTERS MEETING – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 20 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE – IMPLEMENTING THE NEW
GOVERNMENT’S RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS –
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 20 February 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF TREASURY – ECONOMIC UPDATE – RESPONDING TO
COVID-19 -MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 5 June 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – ANNUAL
MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2019 AND ANNUAL OPERATION PLAN 2020 –
PAPERS AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**

Resumption of debate from 9 June 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 – PAPER
AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 9 June 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY – FINAL BUDGET OUTCOME AND IMF
SUPPORT, 2019 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –**

MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Resumption of debate from 11 June 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

MINISTRY OF HEALTH – EXPENDITURE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Resumption of debate from 11 June 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2016 – PAPER – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Resumption of debate from 1 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – ANNUAL
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2017 –
PAPER – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 1 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF NEW PROJECTS IN THE MINING AND
PETROLEUM SECTOR – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 2 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**COCOA BOARD OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA –
ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 3 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP – ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2019 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 3 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION – ANNUAL REPORT, 2019 – PAPER –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 8 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND
RELIGION – ANNUAL MANGEMENT REPORT, 2018 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 8 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY – ANNUAL REPORT, 2018 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 10 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS – CURRENT ISSUES CONCERNING THE
FORESTRY SECTOR – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE
NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 10 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion –That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE ON
NATIONAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 10 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY –
HIGHLIGHTS OF CHALLENGES AND RECENT INTERVENTIONS –
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 10 September 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT, 2019 –
PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Resumption of debate from 11 November 2020 (see page...).

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the Paper – agreed to.

Paper noted

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by Mr Rainbo Paita) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 4.10 p.m.