

SIXTH DAY

Wednesday 2 March 2022

DRAFTH HANSARD

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HARRY MOMOS
Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SIXTH DAY

Wednesday 2 March 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, **Mr Koni Iguan**, again took the Chair at 11 a.m. and invited the Member for North Bougainville, **Honourable William Nakin**, to say Prayers:

‘Thank you, Heavenly Father long bungim mipela long dispela dei. Helpim mipela long mekim gutpela tingting, ol gutpela toktok na ol gutpela wok long helpim ol pipol long painim gutpela sindaun. Mipela itenkim yu na preisim yu. Mipela i tok sori long ol sin pasin mipela imekim. Helpim mipela long tok sori bilong mipela, mipela i sori long sin pasin mipela imekim long y una long ol brad ana susa. Mipela i askim yu long salim Holy Spirit bilong yu long stap wantaim mipela long dispela dei, bai i ken helpim mipela long mipela ipainim ol gutpela tingting na ol gutpela toktok na gutpela pasin. Blesim Prime Minister bilong mipela, Deputy Prime Minister, Opposition Leade and his Deputy. Blesim tu Speaker bilong mipela na Deputy Speaker bilong mipela. Blesim mipela olgeta, olgeta insait long dispela Parliamentary House. Tenkyu, long yu bin choosim mipela. Helpim mipela taim Holy Spirit bilong yu long mipela ipainim gutpela tingting, gutpela toktok, gutpela pasin long mipela ihelpim ol pipol bilong mipela, Amen.’

QUESTIONS

PNG Power Issues

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My series of questions are directed to the Minister for State-owned Enterprises and are in relation to the struggling operations of PNG Power.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for some time now we have been aware of operational and technical issues within PNG Power, but over the last twelve months these issues have become more pronounced where our people have been suffering from lack of power in areas where we are supposed to have access to power.

One of the issues which the Minister needs to take note of certainly in the case of East Sepik; if there is no power, they do not ask PNG Power why there is no power. They ask the Governor, the Member for Wewak and the Member for Maprik, why there is no power.

So, the lack of performance of a state enterprise is actually blamed on the Members of Parliament who have almost no control over the operations of such an entity.

In our case in East Sepik, we had a discussion with them and they have asked us to help them purchase a new generator which should relieve a lot of our power problems once they advise.

02/06

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a new development which was reported in the daily newspapers yesterday. I understand that there is an independent power producer here in Port Moresby that is owed about K200 million.

There are other private producers of power who supply to PPL that are also owed money for their services including Hangzu and few others.

(1) Could the Minister inform this Parliament as to the full state of the liabilities of PPL, particularly in relation to those private arrangements?

(2) Could the Minister inform the Parliament as to how these arrangements came about and whether they are beneficial to PPL and the country or was this deal struck in some secret location and are impacting negatively on the operations of PPL?

My understanding is that PPL is struggling to buy fuel on a weekly basis because they have cash flow issues, which perhaps impinge on some of the outstanding liabilities from the State.

(3) Could the Minister also inform us as to the level of those liabilities that are owed to PPL by the State?

(4) What actions are being taken to get those amounts owing from the State and perhaps other bulk users of power?

(5) What is your Board doing about putting in place a long-term solution to these issues?

In the case of East Sepik, about four weeks ago, we almost had to go and buy fuel for PPL because the people told me to buy fuel for them to supply power.

We need to fix this issue which is being raised on this Floor constantly. I would like to hear from the Minister whether he has plans to rectify this issue once and for all.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA - Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Governor for asking these important questions, which I know most of members have been asking for many years. There is a combination of factors resulting in the way PNG Power is now.

Firstly, most of it is to do with legacy issues and secondly, to do with management issues and entrenched culture of incompetence, nepotism, corrupt practices in PNG Power, for which I have pointed out on this Floor many times.

Most problems date back to 20 or 30 years, I am not trying to pass the buck, but it's been in existence and we have been trying to work very hard to rectify these problems within the period of two to three years given the constant change of government and ministries and so forth.

PNG Power is not technically insolvent but has got good income producing assets. All it needs now is to change the way people have been conducting businesses particularly from within PNG Power and the way some of these independent power producing arrangements are put in place.

To begin, the Kanudi Power Station was constructed by Hangzu Power, a Korean Company, many years ago before we came into government and during the time of Peter O'Neill. The agreement signed lapsed about two years ago. They wanted us to renew but as Minister responsible, I decided not to do so because it was in the commercial interest of PNG Power whereby PNG Power was made to pay an exorbitant rate. That's one example of an agreement that did not serve the interest of PNG Power.

The other agreement that we had to grapple with is the power produced by Posko Power in Lae as a result of an agreement that was reached during the time of the so-called state of emergency that was introduced by the former minister, Ben Micah, at that time.

03/06

We reviewed that arrangement and realised that the rates that were agreed upon between PNG Power and that company are not on par with the standard rates you can find elsewhere in regions and all over the world, in fact. So, we have asked that company to come for a roundtable discussion to review that arrangement.

I also echo the sentiments that were expressed earlier on this week by Sir Puka Temu.

We have been looking at that reviewing the agreement under the fairness of *Transaction Act*, and we believe that we have a good case. This sort of things will take time and we are getting there. There are other arrangements with independent power producers lately with NiuPower and Dirio Power Plant. We are satisfied with the arrangement that we have with these two companies because those IPP arrangements were a result of protected negotiated outcomes where we think are beneficial for PNG Power as well as those independent producers. Going back to the case of Wewak in particular, as far as I'm aware, PNG Power made the decision to produce an additional generator to serve Wewak.

We started looking at the problems experienced by our people in East Sepik, especially in Maprik, when they had issues with the power lines. So, we have given that province priority. In fact, I made a visit to Wewak about three weeks ago and had a meeting with the Manager in charge in Wewak, and I realised that there is a combination of factors. Firstly, there is a lack of constant communication between headquarters in Port Moresby and those managers who are serving out there. There is a need to review the performance of many of our people who are employed in those commercial centres. I can give an example; in some areas you will find electricians and survey draftsmen who through nepotism have been placed in charge of those important centres. We are now trying to review the structure and employ new people.

Mr Speaker, in fact, I can inform this Parliament and our people that KCH under my leadership has come up with two rescue plans; one for Air Niugini and another for PNG Power.

Mr Speaker, PNG Power is not a company that is not making money. Based on the last figures, it was making a gross revenue of about K785 million and the expenditure was nearly around the same figure. I had to remind the management that this is not a charity organisation so they need to look at the overheads. So, these are the things that will be looked at and it will surely take time.

The Cabinet recently approved a payment of K100 million to pay some of our service providers including independent producers and creditors. Mind you, even as I speak today, our Government also owes a lot of money to PNG Power. So, we are now caught between the devil and deep blue sea, so to speak, where we say we own our company but yet we owe them money. So, there is no easy fix.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure our Governor that given time, we can turn it around. As I said earlier, these are not problems that happened overnight; it has taken many years for our company to be in this state. But it is not to say that the Government, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, has not taken concrete steps to fix it. We have a rescue plan and we have allocated money and started paying our bills. In fact, today we will be paying out nearly K100

million starting with K50 million for one independent producer, which has helped us with many of our difficulties in terms of providing reliable power services to cities like Port Moresby and Lae.

Once again, Mr Deputy Speaker, to sum it up, we are not saying that PNG Power is technically insolvent; it is an income-producing company and it is able to pay its debts as and when they fall due, over a period of time.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

04/06

Supplementary Questions

Explain Power Supply Arrangements

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want some clarification on some of the issues that PPL is really struggling with.

Can the Minister explain to this Honourable House the two arrangements with NiuPower and Dirio Power?

I understand Dirio is providing 9 megawatts. The issue with the Dirio arrangement is that PPL is paying both kilojoule gas and then double charged for the megawatt hour. Can the Minister please explain this?

The second arrangement is with NiuPower. My understanding is that NiuPower deal is one of the most expensive under the IPP arrangement. There is a K60 million gas pipeline which is used by a company called Niu Gas which buys gas and sells it to NiuPower. With all these arrangements, no wonder PPL is struggling.

That is why we really have to look at all these issues because there are arrangements with individual power providers that are really strangulating PPL. We haven't even looked at the tariff yet. They want to increase the tariff but the power will become very expensive. Therefore, I think the Governor's question and mine are very important. So, Mr Minister, please inform the House of these two arrangements

Mr Philip Undialu – Point of Order! I think the Honourable Sir Puka Temu has not been adequately informed and is misleading Parliament. NiuPower and Dirio purchase price to PNG Power is less than 33 toea while diesel suppliers are supplying us at 65-70 toea per kilowatt hour. Let's not mislead Parliament when people are trying to offer cheaper deals here. You're protecting corporate interest it seems.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, I will not allow you debate the question the Member has raised. However, your Point of Order is in order, so I will ask the Minister responsible to answer.

Mr Philip Undialu interjecting!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, resume your seat.

Honourable Member for Abau, you can sum up and ask your question.

I would have ruled your supplementary out but since I allowed you to continue, you can sum up the question and the Minister can respond.

Mr Wera Mori – Point of Order! With due respect to the Honourable Member for Abau, I just would like to correct him in that the Minister would not be able to answer simply because he's raising the fact that they are charging in kilojoules

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, the question is raised to the Minister. He has the prerogative to say whether he can give a response or not.

Honourable Member for Abau, you can sum up your question and let the Minister respond.

Sir PUKA TEMU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The fact that the Honourable Governor and the Minister are confusing the Parliament is basically the result of misunderstanding this whole scenario

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I've already ruled out their points of order so don't waste your time.

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Minister inform this Honourable House on the issues of Dirio, which I've already pointed out? The other issue is in relation to the K60 million pipeline, NiuPower, Niu Gas, and PPL paying for the pipeline. The Minister has to clarify that because part of this is what the Governor was talking about when he stated that PPL is struggling.

05/06

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank Sir Puka Temu for his very important questions. To answer the first question, as far as I am aware, they are not double charging PNG Power. The rates that Dirio has been charging were negotiated and are actually cheaper than the rates that were charged to PNG Power by Aggreko Gensets, which we have successfully been able to phase out. The rates that were charged by engine power at Kanudi and the rate that is now charged by the Korean company in Lae, which was negotiated during the State of Emergency, is still higher. The rate was imposed on the understanding that power would be supplied to Lae on an emergency basis.

Instead of supplying the power on emergency basis, they have been supplying power every day and that has been stopped because of the improvement that PNG Power was able to give to the Ramu tow dam and they are now phasing out the supply of power to Lae on that rather very high rate. So, I can tell this House that Dirio has not been double charging PNG Power.

Of course, PNG Power has not been able to pay those dues because of liquidity problems but as I mentioned earlier, the first payment will be made today, if not tomorrow, to Dirio to help ease problems that have been mounted on PNG Power.

In relation to the power that has been supplied by NiuPower, PNG Power is not aware of the arrangements between other companies. What PNG Power is doing now is purchasing power from NiuPower which is a separate entity. Whatever arrangement NiuPower has with other gas pipeline companies is not of any concern to PNG Power. That is an internal commercial arrangement between Oil Search, MRDC and that gas pipeline company. That has got nothing to do with PNG Power. PNG Power is only buying power from NiuPower Limited, a separate entity which apparently owns the assets in that power station.

The rate that has been charged and that has been paid by PNG Power is 33 toea which we believe is average and the going rate for most of the IPPs around the world. There is a lot of misinformation and concepts about that. PNG Power is satisfied with the arrangements with those two companies, and as I have said earlier, they have been starting to make payments and the first payment will be made today or tomorrow to NiuPower and Dirio.

Once again, to ensure that the progress goes on, I am not aware of Dirio Power double-charging PNG Power. Thank you.

P'nyang – PNG LNG Facilities

Mr WILLIAM POWI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister for Petroleum, the Honourable Kerenga Kua.

These questions are in relation to the recently signed P'nyang gas agreement. Before I ask the questions, I want to commend the Government, the good hard working Minister and the Government for getting these projects signed off. It gives confidence to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, previously, we were led to believe that P'nyang was part of the PNG LNG project. All the parties including provincial governments and landowners knew that the P'nyang gas project was part of the PNG LNG project. As it is now, it is not. P'nyang is a separate project. If it is a separate project -

Sir Puka Temu – Point of order! Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. P'nyang was never part of the PNG LNG project. The Governor has got it wrong. Thank you.

Mr WILLIAM POWI – Earlier on, we were led to believe that P'nyang was meant to be a part of the LNG project, but it is not. That's what I'm saying. So, let me finish my questions.

06/06

Mr Deputy Speaker, these are unnecessary interjections and have nothing to do with the issue.

My questions are:

(1) If it is a separate project as the State has signed, are you going to build under that new project a pipeline to utilise the gas in Kutubu PNG LNG facilities and of course the pipeline that goes to Gulf and Central provinces?

This is a separate project but you are using our PNG LNG facilities. For those of us who own the land such as the landowners and the provincial government, how will we benefit under this new project that will be using the facilities that we have under the PNG LNG? Will we gain from tolling benefits for the use of the facilities? We need to know.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Kutubu, Gobe and Kikori have oil field facilities that have deteriorated over many years and are aging.

(2) Can the State through the good Minister talk to the developers and negotiate the transfer of ownership of these aging facilities to the provincial governments and landowner companies to participate in the business?

Thank you.

Mr KERENGA KUA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Governor of Southern Highlands for the questions he has asked. On the first question, initially, some decisions were centred on whether or not PNG LNG and P’nyang could be a joint project. However, it was decided finally that they should be kept as two separate distinct projects so that was how the P’nyang gas agreement has been signed. So, in effect, PNG LNG and P’nyang are now separate projects.

However, having said that, to reduce the construction and operation costs and also maximising profitability, it was decided that it would be necessary for P’nyang project to use some of the pre-existing infrastructures of PNG LNG. But, wherever and whenever that happens, there are tolling arrangements in place so that the joint venture partners of P’nyang will pay the joint venture partners of PNG LNG for the usage of the common facilities. So that’s the situation.

I assure the Governor that the usage of these parts of the facilities will not be for free. There will be a tolling fee imposed and will be paid between the two separate projects so I give that assurance to the Governor.

On the aging infrastructure, I am not aware if there is any provision in the PNG LNG agreement for the ownership of aging infrastructure to be transferred to the landowners, provincial or the State. I’m not aware if there is a provision and it will be unlikely to have such a provision there.

I think some of you will recall it was for that very reason that when the Marape-Basil government took over office about three years ago, my department initiated with the approval of the National Executive Council, renegotiation of the concluded Papua Agreement to have - amongst other things - a provision which will say that when the cost or the capital outlays for the pipeline in the Papua LNG is paved down, the ownership of the pipeline should be transferred or sold to the provincial government, landowners and the State. And then, the State and the provincial government, and the landowners can then use tolling to collect some extra revenue.

However, you will recall that Total has subsequently agreed to that in principle.

07/06

That understanding is in place for the Papua LNG but I am not aware of a similar arrangement for PNG LNG. I doubt if such a provision exists in the PNG LNG agreement. I will have a look at it and if there is a provision, I will report it. If there's, I will not report and my silence will mean there's no provision.

That's the status at the moment. However, if it is the will of the Government that they want to look at buying over any parts of the aging infrastructure of the PNG LNG agreement, the Government should initiate that discussion and endorsement should be secured from the National Executive Council and the potential can be explored.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Juha Development Issues

Mr PETRUS THOMAS – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions to the Minister for Petroleum are in relation to the Juha PDL that was signed in 2009, almost 13 years ago. Since then there has been no form of development in Juha. The Government then went ahead to sign the agreement with P'nyang.

Since no development has taken place in Juha, can the Government ensure to put some conditions in place before they develop P'nyang? They can develop the fields that are included in the signed agreement which haven't been developed for so many years.

If the Government can point this out to the developer –

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, my Point of Order is to seek extension of Question Time.

Time is running out and many of us still have questions to ask. We are reaching the last stages of our term and we would like to ask a lot of pertinent questions.

Can we please extend QuestionTime?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, we still have 18 minutes remaining. If any member wishes to seek leave to extend then you can do so later.

Mr Garry Juffa – Can you get your staff to fix the clock up there because it says eight minutes from where I am sitting. That's why I am requesting for extension of Question Time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – We have 18 minutes remaining. Honourable Member, ask your question.

Mr PETRUS THOMAS – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will shorten my questions. For the last 13 years ExxonMobil has not developed Juha. However, they have gone ahead and signed the P'nyang agreement.

(1) Is there a condition in the agreement that says Juha has to be developed before P'nyang?

(2) If there's nothing in place in the agreement, and after 13 years, can you be able to cancel that license and invite a new developer to develop that wellhead?

Mr KERENGA KUA – Mr Deputy Speaker, at the time PNG LNG agreement was signed, it was signed as an integrated project involving a multitude of wellhead areas including Juha, Angore, Muruk, Kutubu and Hides. All those wellhead areas were brought together and developed as an integrated project. But as and when they are operationalized and brought on stream is dependent upon technical issues which I can't explain.

It's something to do with resevoirs and reservoir pressures and all of that. But they are assembled in a way that as you use up one and pressures drop then you go and bring the other on stream and gradually you use them progressively down the line. Angore was not initially operationalized but now it has become necessary for all these technical reasons and now to bring it on stream they are building pipelines to that well head so that it can be brought on stream. The same thing will apply to Juha when it becomes technically necessary to do so.

08/06

However, the key point is that while Juha has not being operationalised and contributing to the overall revenue of the PNG LNG project, this has not prevented the landowners of Juha from getting their equal shares of the benefits that all licensed landowners are getting. They have been getting it since the PNG LNG has started.

Juha landowners have been getting their share of landowner benefits. That is the key point – even though they are not contributing they are part of the license, therefore, they are getting their income and revenues.

At some point in time when the technical experts feel that Juha should be brought on stream, they will do so. This is not just Juha, Angoro was in the same boat but it is now being attended to. There is a pipeline construction commencing already and very soon it will be

contributing and Juha is in the same boat. Muruk is there and others are also there which will be operationalised. So, slowly they will come around to it.

P'nyang is a separate gas agreement completely. It is separate and it is not dependent upon how the integrated wellheads in the PNG LNG project are performing, it is completely independent and will follow in its own time.

The only issue P'nyang has been concerned with was the construction cost. And that has been decided by all the parties including the Government, that it will be linked back-to-back with the construction of Papua to reduce the cost of construction of P'nyang. So, if Papua goes away and if you want to mobilise them again that adds to more cost. But, if they are here already on the ground with all their tools, materials, expertise and everything, you can just move them from Papua across to P'nyang, which is cheaper.

So that is how the contract is signed and that is what will happen. That is how they are synergised so a lot of technical issues that the commercial and the economics of it are all considered in order to make all these projects, PNG LNG, Papua and P'nyang profitable for all the stake holders.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Before I allow the Governor of Enga to raise his questions, the Governor of Oro has raised concerns on the limited time left for questions, therefore, Ministers should get straight to answering the questions. If you have more information to give to a Minister regarding a question, you can put them in writing to him later, so that we give enough time to all members.

The Chair will try to be fair by giving the opportunity to everyone on both sides to ask questions, so do not feel let down if you are not called upon.

Power Supply Woes

Sir PETER IPATAS -Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for State-owned Enterprises, and it is in relation to electricity or power.

My province being one of the last provinces on the main grid from Yonki is severely affected all the time in terms of reliable power supply.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak to the chairman of PNG Power, Mr Moses Maladina, and of course the current CEO about solving our problem in Enga by utilising the four generators we have at the hospital. For six months, they have not come back to me.

Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Minister get to his chairman and the managing director to ensure that they see our people on the ground, so that we can get reliable power supplied by our own generators in the province?

Thank you.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Governor of Enga, Sir Peter Ipatas, for his question.

09/06

I can assure the Governor that during the course of this session, I will ask the chairman of PNG Power as to why it is taking that long for them to come back to the Enga Provincial Government to fix what I think is a relatively straight forward reliable generator to provide energy to the province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst having this opportunity, I would like to inform the Governor that PNG Power is working very hard to establish a new source of power in addition to the power that has been supplied by the generators.

We are considering to phase away diesel supplied energy and some of you may have read about the approval by the China Exim Bank for the second extension of the Ramu grid upgrade.

We are going to upgrade all the transmission lines together with the proposed Ramu to hydro-power. We think we will be able to provide more than enough power to the Highlands region. It's in addition to the work that has been underway and Cabinet has approved the allocation of money to fund the transmission lines from Hides to Tari and all the way to Pogera, Enga Province so that we can have power supply from Hides gas field. We will have reliable energy supply from two different sources; one from the Ramu grid and the other one closer from the Hides gas. We should be able to have enough supply in the next four to five years.

But on the issue of the genset, I will find out why it's taking too long for PNG Power and I will inform the Governor accordingly.

OLIPAC Update

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister and it's in relation to the matter of the revised *Organic Law on Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates*, OLIPAC. These laws were revised in 2014 but, unfortunately, were not passed and the same happened in 2020.

The laws would definitely strengthen the functions of political parties and it's an important legislative reform that is well overdue.

My question is; can the Minister update us on where we are on this reform of law and its status at this stage?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

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

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the time for questions this day being extended by 20 minutes.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I have realized that this Bill is on the Notice Paper and as a constitutional amendment it requires an absolute majority of 73 Members of Parliament to pass it.

In the last few days of sitting, we have struggled to muster the 73 votes for it to be passed. It's been on notice since 2020 and we could entertain this but depending on the number. We have two sittings of Parliament coming up and if we have the number then we can pass this Bill. This is an important Bill to strengthen the work of political parties as state institutions and I appeal to the House to provide the required majority to pass these important Bills.

10/06

Rural Electrification Program

Mr LEKWA GURE – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask my questions to the Minister for State-owned Enterprises, and I also ask the Minister for Energy and Rural Development to take note as well. I ask my questions in view of the wonderful statement presented by the Minister for Energy yesterday on National Energy Authority and the subsequent debate that ensued.

In 2018 there were a series of meetings which culminated in the APEC Leaders' Summit in November 2018. Amongst all the agenda items they talked about there was a great announcement and a commitment made by our development partners particularly United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan to assist us to have 70 per cent of our country electrified by the year 2030, which is only eight years away.

We realise that the power provision is important for our industrialisation and the challenges thereof, in terms of power generation and distribution.

My three questions are;

(1) What is the appropriate body that is coordinating this commitment; is it PPL which would appear to be the right body to coordinate this or is there another body in charge?

(2) How much of the country at this point in time as we speak has access to electricity; is it 20 per cent, 30 per cent or 40 per cent at this time?

(3) Is there a process or avenue through which districts and provinces can make input to that coordinating body to let them know the areas where they would like the electricity to be made available?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Minister for State-owned Enterprises, this seems to be your third time and I hope the answers will be short.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Mr Deputy Speaker, it is in fact a case where in 2018, leaders of those four countries during APEC agreed to commit about K1 billion to help this country to ensure that 70 per cent of the population has access to electrification. And that was a political statement made by leaders of the country with no proper documented process. The understanding was that PNG as well as those countries will then through the normal diplomatic sense have an agreement that would then set out in detail how we were going to draw down those funds.

Unfortunately, during the years 2019, 2020 and even now, no such document has ever been signed by those countries as well as the Papua New Guinea Government despite attempts by our Prime Minister and of course myself to follow up. What has happened lately is that those countries, through their diplomatic missions, have gone out and selected projects with no input and consultation from the Government through PNG Power.

They have started these small projects, particularly solar and biomass with no input from our Government. When I last met with representatives of those companies at the Australian High Commission office about a year ago, we put it to them that we wanted to select big projects and asked them to do the costings and fund them.

11/06

That was the arrangement because the way they were going, they were funding small projects in an uncoordinated fashion. And we made it clear to them that whatever they wanted

to do to help us would not be helpful and would have less impact unless we were able to tell them which areas and which projects they should target. For instance, in the last meeting, I did point out to them that if they wanted to help this country they should start looking at helping us put up transitional lines from Port Moresby to Kerema for instance, and from Port Moresby all the way past Rigo and Abau to Milne Bay province, or from Singsing Creek all the way to Madang, Wewak and Vanimo. And those were the big impact projects we wanted those countries to help fund so that we would be able to take care of the smaller ones ourselves.

I also pointed out that we needed their help to develop the Edevu Project up in the Koiari mountains, Mr Speaker. Port Moresby as we know, to start with as an example, has grown and we are looking at a population of a million people, and the existing power plant at Rouna is not producing sufficient power. We must remember that the Sirinimu Dam has got no new river systems or creeks joining it to feed more water to be able to power those turbines. It's the same volume of water after normal evaporation process. So what we've asked them is to help us fund an additional dam to cater for it. We've been specifically telling them that, if they really want to help us, they just start looking at providing power to our district headquarters in those remote electorates. For instance, in Tapini, Telefomin and Middle Ramu. We asked them to see if they could help us by producing power to those district headquarters, then power connection would then go out to outlying education facilities, health facilities and then we could connect the villages.

So we wanted to do it in a coordinated and in a phase manner. Unfortunately, we have not been able to reach an agreement with that so it is an ongoing process. We are still trying to negotiate and, unfortunately, despite the big announcement by our friends from those four countries we've not gained much traction.

Looks like the new government will be able to continue that process and hopefully we will be able to reach an agreement with them. With definite work plans they'll help us reach our target of achieving our target of 70 per cent electrification of our country by 2030.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Finance – Audit of District Accounts

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – My questions are to the Minister for Finance and Rural Development.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the last couple of weeks, I was following up with the Auditor General's office asking them if they can come to my district and conduct an audit. Their

response is that they do not have the capacity to travel to districts and conduct audits. I think lack of manpower is the main reason.

My questions are:

(1) Whose responsibility is it to conduct audits for the public accounts for the districts?

(2) What is the process of conducting audits; do we need to request the Auditor General's office to come or do we engage auditors to come to the districts?

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have been submitting acquittal reports every year and I believe those acquittal reports cannot be completed without a formal audit done or undertaken by the Auditor General's office.

(3) Can we have a system in place where a district or provincial government presents their acquittal reports for auditors to check whether their acquittals are proper or not?

They need to give their opinion on all these things.

(4) Is the Minister aware of the situation at the Auditor General's office where there is no manpower? What is it doing to address this matter?

Sir JOHN PUNDARI – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the good Member for Pomio for raising very important questions. The Auditor General's office is an independent organization as we all know.

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They all agree to the fact that we need to assist them with the capacity that they need and the financial resourcing so they can be able to undertake the necessary audits.

And, Mr Deputy Speaker, not just the audits of the national agencies of the State, but also of sub-nationals, provincial governments and the districts for that matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a lot of money is filtered by national governments to districts and provinces outside of the normal DSIPs and PSIPs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this Government under the leadership of our good Prime Minister has filtered a hell lot of money to districts and provinces. And I agree with the good Member for Pomio that audits are necessary in so far as those public monies are concerned and their expenditures for that matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we must also be aware of the fact that there are laws and procedural systems we need to follow in the use of those public monies. And of course, this Government in our Budget for this year, has allocated funds to assist the Auditor General's office but I must

also admit the fact that we need to do a lot more, in so far as this independent office is concerned given the need for the capacity.

But, I must also inform Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea, that given the challenges of the Auditor-General's office, they have done very well in updating many of our national agencies, in so far as their financial reports are concerned.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Preparations for 2022 Elections

Mr KOBBY BOMOREO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My questions are directed to the Prime Minister and are in relations to the 2022 National General Elections.

Before I ask my question, I want to take this time to thank the Parliament for approving the Lutheran Church Bill. On behalf of the two million faithful followers of the Lutheran church, thank you very much.

Before my question, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to express a grievance. There are some senior members of this House who have been saying negative things behind our backs outside of this House in regards to the Pangu Pati in Morobe Province.

They say that Pangu Pati is a dead political party but I want to say Pangu Pati is very much alive in Morobe Province. It is still alive today and will continue to live on tomorrow.

My questions to the Prime Minister are;

(1) Does the Government have plans in place such as a working program to prepare our disciplinary forces to conduct the elections?

(2) How prepared are we in terms of funding to support the work of the Electoral Commission?

This has to be made clear because we have just 59 or 60 days left before the writs are issued. We must be prepared in time. In the past we have had delays and we rush everything at the final hour.

(3) Has the Government prepared the agencies to conduct the elections or not?

The next question is about ballot papers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the last election, the whole country knew that the former Electoral Commission printed the ballot papers in Indonesia. I have seen three elections.

(4) What are the thoughts of the Government and the Electoral Commission in relation to the preparation of ballot papers for this election?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the Member for Tewai-Siassi for asking these important questions about the 2022 National General Elections.

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We are 59 days away from the issue of writs and the subsequent campaign period, which will be followed by the polling and counting period.

Let me assure our citizens that we are doing absolutely everything that we can to support the Electoral Commission to give a good election preparation and to have a safe election in 2022. So far, the Treasury has released K100 million already to help the Electoral Commission. The Treasury has also released K110 million to the police and K50 million to the PNG Defence Force. There is also a lot of pending election bills for 2012 and 2017 that the Election Commission and the security forces have in respect to the cost of running those elections. I think the police and defence have indicated that they are retiring some of the outstanding bills as well as preparing for the 2022 Elections.

So, to answer the good question raised by the Member for Tewai-Siassi, the National Government to the best of our ability in as far as support is concerned, has given some money early to the Electoral Commission, police, and the PNG Defence Force so that they can prepare early for safe and secured election for each and every one of us.

As part of the process, Electoral Commission has stepped out of its way under present leadership and working in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission to print ballot papers for 2022 General Elections. It will be a big difference in the 2022 Elections as to what happened in 2017. So, under the bilateral arrangements, the Electoral Commission of Australia and Electoral Commission of Papua New Guinea will have increased safety features and the correct numbers printed on the ballot papers and will come in a transparent manner. Most of you would know by now that the 2022 Elections will also have an independent election observer, NRI, Transparent International, and the bilateral partners. Everyone has oversight into what is happening so that the country is assured of fair and friendly elections for everyone who is contesting.

So, the ballot papers are in discussion with the Australian Government and the Australian Electoral Commission in securing safe printing of ballot papers in Australia with added security features that will come in. Let me also thank the Australian Government and also the Indian Government for giving us an indication that they will support us with an indelible ink to be used during polling.

The ballot papers have now been prepared in a safe secured manner as oversighted by all bodies who were present at the Independent Oversight Election Steering Committee. So, all preparations are going well not to say that there will be hiccups along the way and I encourage every stakeholder including contestants, candidates, and leaders of the current Parliament to be on the lookout for any irregularities or illegal practices during this common roll update period.

We've had a briefing from the Electoral Commission and his team yesterday and all coalition party leaders on the Government side. I've asked them to make a similar presentation to all party leaders from the Opposition side. I think they might be doing that today if the Opposition party leaders are ready. They have given us assurance yesterday that they will come to the Opposition Lobby today to make a presentation on the election preparations so the Opposition party leaders could avail themselves and get informed as to what is happening.

We were informed yesterday that the common roll update is going on as we speak so everyone has an interest. Your point of reference would be your district and your provincial election steering committees and your district headquarters.

We have asked for those common roll updates to be transparent and the pre-roll data should be presented to the district offices for all candidates and supporters and all voters to look to ensure that their names are on the roll. Those updates are going on as we speak. So, to the best of our ability, K100 million has gone to them already through the Electoral Commission, K110 million to Police, K50 million to Defence, and all preparation work is going on at the moment.

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As I said earlier, in partnership with the Australian Electoral Commission, the PNG Electoral Commission will have the ballot papers printed offshore with the added security layers to ensure we hold a fair and safe election for every one of us.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Goroka Market and Town Road

Mr POGIO GHATE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My concern is regarding the Goroka market and I would like to direct these questions to Minister for National Planning, but since he's not around, I would like to re-direct the questions to the Prime Minister.

We all are aware that there is a brand-new market in Eastern Highland, but the people of Eastern Highland have been denied its use for too long. The people are marketing on the road

side and it's really affecting the traffic. Furthermore, it's unhygienic for the people to market their produce on the ground.

I would like to raise these questions because this issue has not been addressed for some time.

(1) Can the National Planning Minister inform the House how much it would cost to open the market?

The people of Eastern Highland are constantly complaining about this market.

(2) Can the money be allocated through the PIP funds?

I know Prime Minister was out there to open this market but it's taking too long. Why can't this facility be open to the people of Eastern Highlands? That's the biggest concern for the people of Eastern Highlands.

The other concern is the ownership and who is going to look after that market.

(3) Is it going to come under the LLG or another authority?

Mr Deputy Speaker, the next question is in regard to the four-lane road in the main town street of Goroka. The construction began some time ago but was never completed.

(4) Is the Prime Minister aware of this, and why is it incomplete?

Thank you.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for Daulo for asking the questions regarding Goroka market and town road.

During the last term of Parliament, the then governor, Madam Julie Soso, from my recollection, allocated K10 million for that market from her PSIP. And I think there was a national government (the O'Neill government) allocation of another K10 million on top, bringing it to a total of K20 million for the new market project.

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There were some variations including need for storage freezer facilities. When I travelled to Goroka a few years back, we released K3 million to complete this market. It was to become a state-of-the-art market that will not only serve the locals but more importantly, that market will be used as a hub to store vegetables to be then transported by road or air to supply Goroka vegetables to the markets in Port Moresby and elsewhere. That was the intention so, all in all, it costed about K23 million for that market to be completed. It would have been opened early but let me take this time to ask the local leaders of the Goroka urban, LLG's as well as the Eastern Highlands to sit down to come up with a program to open this market.

They can open the market. They do not need special guests from Port Moresby, myself or anyone to open this market because the market is complete already. So it should be opened for our people to use, instead of those small delays that come in between and we all are waiting for that big moment to go and open the market.

In my view, that K23 million market should be opened for use. I gather there are some related landowner issues in relation to who runs the market, whether the LLG, urban authority or the provincial government. These are issues that can be resolved in local levels and I urge the local leaders including, the Governor and the member to take ownership of this issue and resolve it to get the market opened.

The question regarding the four-way lane, we have instructed the Department of Works to vary the existing Highlands Highway contract where Goroka town falls into. That variation could include a four-way lane that runs from Faniufa to Zogizoi or Faniufa all the way to 4-mile, outside of the Catholic mission, so that it does not stop the Goroka town traffic, but you get through the Highlands Highway traffic.

The Department of Works has done the variation and that is a work in progress. We are also asking ADB as part of the total rehabilitation of the Highlands Highway from Lae all the way up to Hagen. That variation will be looked into to allow the local traffic to be free up to allow the Highlands Highway traffic because it runs right through Goroka town which causes traffic congestions.

So instructions were given to the Department of Works already and they are working with ADB to see that variation can be installed for that part of our Highlands Highway.

Thank you very much.

**PACIFIC INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE –
ANNUAL REPORTS, 2020,2021 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
PAPERS NOTED**

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku – Minister for Public Service) – I present the following Papers pursuant to statute:

Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance – Annual Reports, 2020, 2021

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

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is also my greatest honour to present this paper just few days after the first anniversary of the passing of our late Grand Chief, Sir Michael Thomas Somare.

I would like to also make a special acknowledgment and convey our congratulations to the rest of our Papua New Guineans for observing that day. ADCOL is where he started and also the place where the Bully Beef Club started to where we are now.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, it is my great pleasure to table in this Honourable House the 2020-2021 Annual Reports by the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG), formerly known as ADCOL and PNG Institute of Public Administration.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance was recently established by Parliament with the enactment of the PILAG Act 2017. It is a transformation and a shift in name and status from what was infamously known as the Administrative College (ADCOL) established in 1963 during the colonial era and later renamed PNG Institute of Public Administration (PNGIPA) in 1993.

The new *PILAG Act 2017* establishes the new-look organisation and provides the legislative framework within which to operate as an independent statutory body, devoid of the application of the legislative confines of the *Public Services (Management) Act 2014* and the corresponding General Orders.

Whilst, over time, there have been shifts in name and status, the core organizational function of delivering training for public servants and employees of public authorities in Papua New Guinea over the years, has fundamentally remained intact.

The institutional transformations and rejuvenation exercises that occurred at particular intervals in time, were largely a direct consequence of changes in policy priorities and development agendas of successive governments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the organisation, despite the variation in name tags, has consistently been sensitive, hence responsive, to the development agendas and aspirations of successive governments during the course of its existence, and more so, in recent times.

The latest initiative to establish PILAG as an independent statutory body with practical-oriented sets of functional roles and responsibilities is a vivid reflection of its commitment and desire to support the government in its efforts to make the public service more responsive to the needs of the people.

PILAG, under the stewardship of the Minister for Public Service, the PILAG board and its management team, has embarked on a journey of grooming ethical and values-based future leaders in the country. Continuing its legacy of producing national leaders since 1963, the Institute aims to promote good governance and prudent management of public resources through its training programs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is worth noting by this Honorable House that, as the premier training Institute for public servants throughout PNG, PILAG is determined to change the negative perceptions of the public service, to improve its image to one that is highly competent and effectively responsive to the priorities of the government.

PILAG is proactive in promoting and supporting the Government's policy priorities and strategic development plans such as Vision 2050 and the National Strategic Development Plan 2010-2030, through embracing a number of strategic training and development initiatives, towards reforming a public service that is destined to deliver services to the people in the rural settings, more effectively.

In that context, Mr Deputy Speaker, PILAG's immediate focus of attention is towards the implementation of the training policy recently approved by NEC under the framework of "sustainable, stable and consistent public sector training for improved delivery". PILAG has now begun the process of reasserting itself in terms of its course structure to be tailored specifically towards accommodating the requirements and expectations of the NEC Policy Directives of 61/2021.

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Another central focus for PILAG at this juncture of the policy phase, is to take its infrastructural state to a formidable scope and standard capable of embracing meaningfully, the specific actions required by the said NEC Decision.

PILAG is also refining its organizational structure to most appropriately accommodate the requirements of the policy through recruitment/appointment of people with the relevant credentials to enhance institutional capacity.

To re-iterate, Mr Deputy Speaker, one of the priority activities of PILAG from now into the future, will be the implementation of this public sector training policy in collaboration with DPM and all State Agencies across the board,

Mr Speaker, PILAG's action plans and achievements of the Institute form the integral basis of its annual reports for 2020 and the first half (January - June) of 2021.

As is evident, the report is mostly based on the activities and performances with respect to respective functions of the three (3) divisions of the institute; workforce training and development, business innovation and strategic relations and corporate services.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with this brief but important statement about the purpose and roles of the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance, I now table its annual reports for 2020 and 2021.

May I also take this time to thank the following former Ministers and those that have gone before me in the likes of Sir Puka Temu, Honourable Elias Kapavore, Honourable Wesley Kukundj and Honourable Soroi Eoe, thank you Mr Speaker.

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau) – I move –

That the Parliament take note of the paper.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Minister and his team from PILAG for this very exciting and forward-looking report which is presented proudly by the Minister on this Honourable House.

When we were asked to re-look at the Institute of Public Administration because of its long history of contributing to human resource development particularly focused at the public service; one of the critical issues that I looked at while I was Minister for Public Service and the discussion between Honourable Julie Bishop the then Minister for Foreign for Australia, was the need for a critical mass in this country for middle managers; well qualified ethical based officers at the middle management level in this country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my strong view was that is the area we lack in as a nation. Same as our argument of SMEs, some of these big businesses in the middle were lacking. So, it was a great pleasure for me to secure an agreement with the Australian Government. I want to thank the then Minister for Foreign, Honourable Julie Bishop for the strong passion that she had to make sure that the Institute Public Administration was completely transformed. I also thank the Speaker. The static rebuilding of the old building where the bully beef program was initiated in that college. And so, it was a pleasure for me to see a revitalisation of the Institute of Public Administration now called PILAG, it has been completely transformed in very short period of time. I want to commend the Minister for really taking the bull by the horn and making sure that this particular institute is given the right recognition and right support.

Initially I advocated for all our district chief executive officers. Remember 89 of them would have gone through that particular program and the Member for Pomio was one of the early products of this program Mr Speaker. I think the dream is beginning to be realized and so I am very proud.

Mr Deputy Speaker and I want to thank the current Minister for Public Service for providing that strong focus in making sure that this institute will be heading towards the original vision intended.

PILAG is not isolated its linked to the School of Business at the University of Papua New Guinea. As many of us know, the Australian Government rebuilt some of those world class buildings at the main campus in Waigani. I really strongly believe that this is a very good initiative by the Government that we must continue to support. And I believe that in terms of human development for our country and the rest of the Pacific, PNG will play a very important principal leadership role in terms of HR Development in the Pacific through this Institution.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are two matters that I will strongly recommend. Firstly, at the anniversary of the Grand Chief's passing on the 26 February 2021 on Saturday, I thought about a suitable name for that Institution. We named it the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Government but I am recommending to the Minister and the Prime Minister that since the Grand Chief played a very important role and also the original discussion for the Independence of this nation was held in that institute, I strongly recommend to the Honorable House, that this institute should be called Somare Institute of Leadership and Government.

I strongly recommend that the Prime Minister and the Honorable Public Service Minister seriously look at this. And because we are in the week of commemorating the Grand Chief's passing twelve months ago, I think it will be an honorable thing to name this very important institute after Somare so the legacy can live on.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you recall, when we gained Independence and our founding father was the first prime minister of this nation. There was an eight-point plan that he introduced to lead this country and we agree that PNG has one of the best Constitutions in this entire region and perhaps the world. But that eight-point plan included one very important drive and that was localization. Therefore, my recommendation today is because of that localization policy. Many of us came at the eve of the Independence, after we graduated from the university, we actually replaced many foreigners because of the localization policy. For example, in my field the medical field. And I'm sure in the legal field, accounting field, engineering, mining engineering, civil engineering, many citizens began to take over. This was because the Grand Chief pushed for localization which was basically training and investing in human resources.

And I had the pleasure of accompanying the Prime Minister to the University of Papua New Guinea where the students hosted the commemoration service right in front of the Michael Somare Library. So in our premier institution, there is a library called Michael Somare Library.

But in my argument today Mr Deputy Speaker, I strongly recommend this name change because the Grand Chief is well known entire world and particularly in the Pacific.

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My second point is, Mr Deputy Speaker, because this is a digital era, I strongly recommend the Minister for Public Service to do online training. We must establish online training in every district, so that people don't have to travel here for training.

All our CEOs, managers for health, finance and various sectors, can remain in their districts and do online training. I strongly recommend that.

I read that there is a program going on but if you can facilitate it, I think this will even cover the entire country. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to add a few words and also to commend our good Minister for Public Service for the hard work that he has put in and the report that he has presented here.

I also want to agree with the comments made by Sir Puka Temu in regards to the possibility of re-naming that institution. I agree with much of what he has said.

My comments are in relation to the state of our public servants and also advice that at least an effort has been undertaken by this Government.

I am pleased to say that the efforts undertaken by the Minister for DPM working together with the Special Parliamentary Committee and the Public Sector Reforms are moving in the right direction, doing the much needed reform so that we can rebuild the public sector, in particular, the public service. So that it can be a modern public service that serves to the expectations of our people.

One of the efforts that we need to undertake fiercely is work sizing. Work sizing the public service so that it can be efficient, lean, productive machine that delivers effectively and efficiently.

I feel that we should have a public service that plays more of an Ombudsman role in audit, a spectacular role in designing policies, implementing and enforcing laws and leading the delivery of goods and services to the private sector.

If we were able to do this, we can actually reduce the size of the public service and with the savings we make, we can actually remunerate public servants far better than what we do today. Firstly, after Independence, every public servant in Papua New Guinea, had a home. That was just an example of what I am trying to make here as a point.

In Kokoda Station, when I was going to school there, I would go up to my uncle's house at the Kokoda Station and visit him. On holidays, I spent time with him. He would wake up at around 7 o'clock and make his way to the district office. He was always well dressed and productive. There was order and discipline. And I did not know at that time, that my uncle was just a driver. But he had a home.

In Kokoda Station, there was a cleaner, whose job was just to clean the station. There was a tractor driver, whose job was just to drive the tractor and clean the station and continue maintaining the station. They both had homes and were adequately remunerated.

And as a result, you can see productivity and pride in the way that they moved around, in the way that they carried out their duties.

That's not the case today. Today, we expect our public servants to go to work, to work as hard as possible, to be patriotic, to build this nation's economy. But where are they living? What are they being paid? Are they happy?

We have to address this. We did this in Customs, Mr Speaker. In Customs, we restructured that organization and we did it ourselves. We did it mainly with consultants, in fact no help at all. We restructured Customs. We increased the wages and salaries of all our staffs.

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We put in place a system whereby organisations that were clearing the goods late would be penalised. The funds from those penalties will be put into our trust account. The funds from that trust account were utilised to ensure that all our Customs officers have houses, uniforms, and decent training. The outcome was profound. In the first year, an independent organisation, having extracted ourselves from IRC, Custom was given only 40 per cent of the Budget that it has requested. We only have 67 per cent of the staff ceiling but because of this restructure and effort to remunerate our Customs officers better by providing them housing and a decent working environment, the organization collected K400 million more than projected. And because of this we were happy. The officers were willing to come to work and were also enthusiastic about their roles and responsibilities as patriots building a nation. I had hoped to replicate this in many government departments as I could and that is why I proposed this

Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reforms in 2012. I brought that idea to the then Leader of Government Business who is currently our Prime Minister the Honourable James Marape, he took this idea to then Prime Minister Honourable Peter O'Neill who agreed that this reform was much needed and the organisation was created, the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reforms. The idea is to completely overhaul and reform the public sector, in particular the public service so that we can have an effective and efficient productive modern public service.

Unfortunately, many of the reports that came out from the committee whenever acted upon, grew dust, and collected mold as is the case in Waigani. But fortunately, this organisation has been revived and we have great enthusiasm for this much-needed effort and we are working in great partnership with the Minister for Department of Personnel Management. One of those efforts is to work with our development partners such as New Zealand, Australia, and the United States to look at how they can assist us in terms of resources and in terms of knowledge, as developed nations they can assist us in modernising our public sector.

I am pleased to report that those efforts are well underway and I will be tabling a report at the next Parliament session to give you a detailed report on the outcomes of the work undertaken by the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reforms.

Mr Speaker, I just want to add a few more closing remarks in regards to the statement presented by the Minister for Department of Personnel Management. If we want to progress, we have to seriously invest in our public service. Right now, what is happening is that we have three types of public servants in the public service.

(1) You have your nomad, the public servant who is just transitional through the public service. His intentions are not to remain in the public service and work there. His intentions are just to spend time there and draw down the salary while looking for a job elsewhere. So, he's going to give as minimal effort as he possibly can to do the tasks at hand.

(2) The public servants who find the public service to be the exposal security system. He is not interested in coming to work at all if he can get away with it. There are public servants within our organisations that don't come to work but are paid.

In Oro Province, we have found a few of them and removed them. One particular person did not come to work for nine years but he was drawing down a salary and there are many more like this all over the country. These are the social security public servants and they are a large part of our public service.

And then you have the patriots, a small group of Papua New Guineans who comes to work diligently at 7.45 a.m., they are already at the office. They are still at work even at 4.06 p.m., even on weekends they come to work.

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They don't ask for overtime, they believe that this country deserves this type of attention and commitment. They live in settlements and villages with no running water and no electricity at times. Often times they make sacrifices and are overlooked, but they continue to come to work. They are the true patriots of this country. But you know patriotism does not put food on the table nor it does it pay your children's school fees. And eventually, what happens is, these types of public servants lose hope, lose interest and then they leave for private companies who can pay them ten times better. What's happening now is that many of them are also leaving for off shore opportunities.

I can tell you that it's not just our learned people from academic institutions that are leaving for off shore opportunities, even the very technical people whom we need to build the nation such as carpenters and mechanics are also leaving.

I found a young man in Brisbane, an auto mechanic. He was standing in line and going to work there for five years. He had successfully secured a job there. They flew him down, interviewed him, and they were so pleased that they sent him back to get his family and gave him a five-year contract to go and work in Brisbane as an auto mechanic. I asked how did you secure your job, I am curious, he replied saying it was advertised on the internet. He said put your name and qualification on the job site and you can be picked up by anyone.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there's also a Papua New Guinean working in Sweden, who studied there graduated with his degree came back keen to serve his nation. He applied for so many jobs everywhere; both the private and public sector, nobody employed him. Finally, he went back to Sweden, applied there and secured a job, he took his family and said goodbye to Papua New Guinea.

Now when we talk about our public service and public servants what we want is to work on that patriotic lot and attract more of those type. And many of them are there, 60,000 graduating every year looking for such jobs and opportunities.

They will come and work and build this nation but we've got to be able to remunerate them adequately to take care of them. Give them decent housing and we can do that if we right size. And we should be getting the best possible brains to build this nation, it is a far more important role working in the private sector. With due respect to those who worked in the

private sector, they pay their taxes and so forth but their efforts and activities are confined to the interest of their organization.

But a public servant is building a country, building a future and we need to take care of these types of people. They are the ones that will secure our future. They will be protectors of this nation's economy, guardians 24 hours a day and 365 days in a year. That is what we are supposed to be seeing, but we are not seeing and that is because we are not adequately taking care of their needs.

We expect them to be patriotic, to come to work and to be energized in building a nation but how that be when they are not adequately remunerated.

I am glad to see that the Minister for Public Service is definitely moving in that direction. We are working together and we wish to propose a work performance agreement as a contractual agreement between the State of Papua New Guinea and the public servant.

So, from tea boy all the way to CEO, he should be on such an agreement with very clear distinct and simple KPIs agreement in place whereby, if he performs in this manner, he is adequately rewarded in this manner. If he doesn't perform in this manner then appropriate action is taken against him. Right now, this doesn't happen and as a result, we are seeing too few patriots in this organization. We are seeing too many dole collectors or social security collectors, too many nomads causing problem for us while ultimate price is paid by our people especially those in the rural areas.

22/06

Mr Speaker, we all have to step up and be responsible. What's important is order, discipline and happiness. Let's work on the happiness part which is constructing a public service that is well remunerated, adequately paid and given the benefits they need, so that they can be happy and productive.

In regards to order and discipline, this is very much lacking because we do not set the pace here. When you go to a Government Department, you will see someone wearing jeans, chewing betelnut with pair of slippers on and yet calls himself a director. You as a leader should be telling him that he is not adequately presenting himself as a public servant. That is suppose to happen from the top down.

Today, when you go to any of the government departments, they are not like what they use to be in the 1970's to 1980's. There is chewing of betelnut, littering, loitering, wasting of time and turning up late which has become the norm.

We have to do away with that. Each and every one of us should be leading by example and doing our best to ensure that those in our immediate vicinity, reflect the fact that we want to be a great nation.

With that, I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker. That is my short presentation.

Mr RICHARD MARU (Yangoru- Saussia) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also would like to add a few comments to this very good presentation made by the Minister.

I have been a member for 10 years now, Mr Speaker, and looking at the districts, we do not find the calibre of leaders who are able to manage our districts.

I come from the private sector and the private sector does a good job in identifying cadets from universities and takes them through a graduate management program. They then develop them, both in and out of the country to become managers and leaders of the future. By the time they get to the top, they are very competent.

Despite the presence of PILAG, the Government has failed to undertake a program like this and that is why we do not have leaders in the provinces and the districts. For example; in my province, we even have diploma graduates as deputy administrators. This should not be the case when we have hundreds of degree qualified students coming through and people with masters' degrees. Yet we are struggling to find administrators with degrees. So what is the problem?

PILAG has done a good job but the area where we are failing, is developing leaders.

During pre-independence, all government departments used to engage cadets coming out of universities. This is no longer the case in terms of the public service. Where are the cadets? Where are the future leaders of the public service coming through the system? Who identifies them? Who ensures there is a program to develop them through the system including PILAG?

I think this is the area where we continue to fail and I would like the Minister to take very good notes of my comments. We want to see a program where cadets from universities are identified. They come through a pathway that we develop and PILAG should be providing their enrichment programs to save this public service and also through scholarship programs. We could even take them all the way to overseas programs to prepare them well, so that we have leaders in the public service.

Mr Speaker, this is a weakness of the entire public service system. There are no leaders, there are no managers and we do not have minimum qualification standards. We do not even have people been identified, developed, positions created for them and a pathway for them.

So the public service will continue to fail us, unless we have a program similar to the private sector, where managers are identified from universities and go through a cadet program to be developed. So that one day, they will become the administrators of their respective provinces. So there should be a clear pathway for the public service.

Mr Speaker, the other problem I noticed in the public service structure is, we do not have a standard structure for every districts. These are the positions that must be present in every single district and houses must be made available for them. For example; should we have a lands advisor in every district when we need to mobilise land. Most districts do not have a lands advisor position.

23/06

That's the other factor that I would like the Minister to seriously consider on what should be the standard structure for positions in the public service in the districts. So that we are developing people, but at the same time, able to deliver the kind of services that all our districts need throughout the length and breadth of our nation. But otherwise, Minister is doing a fantastic job and we are all here to support you so keep going.

But let's consider some of the weaknesses and use PILAG and a structure that will allow us to groom managers and leaders that will enable us to be far more competent and a public service that is really able to deliver the services and goods for us. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr JOHN ROSSO (Lae-Minister for Lands and Physical Planning) – Thank you, Mr Speaker for recognizing me. I would like to join the debate and I commend the Minister for Public Service on the effort he has put to table the PILAG Report.

As the previous speakers mentioned, PILAG is a very important institution because coming up through the rank as a public servant, I know most public servants today are recruited from the department and districts.

Most of us members here complain a lot about them. We complain that our CEOs in the district are not performing and even departmental heads and accountants in the districts. Because most of them get recruited straight into the position they occupy. They don't attend institutions like PILAG and get promoted properly up the ranks.

The district CEO must know all the procedures and processes like middle management, advance management and the processes of public service. I say this because, I use to serve in the district for 15 years as a district officer in my young days. Having done that as a young patrol officer who went to Administrative College. They taught us all these things and they

sent us to the districts in West Sepik, Simbu, Wabag and so forth. We knew exactly how to run the affairs of the district.

To this day, you have CEOs that are appointed from some private sector and I don't condone private sector in these aspects, but a lot of the people that come from private sector don't really understand the processes involved in the public service. It is a cumbersome process but it also needs to be done because that's the process we have to follow.

So having said that, I want to commend the good Minister who was once a provincial secretary before he became a politician and he truly knows what this institution needs to ensure that people are trained properly and given the job descriptions, and ensure that when they go out to public service field they will perform properly.

As the Governor of Northern mentioned, right sizing is the way to go. We have a public service which is very cumbersome and if we right size then we can be able to pay our public service better. We point our fingers at public service all the time, but do we give them the right conditions and tools to operate in.

Many times, we send public servants to Kabwum, Teleformin, Green River and Menyamya by air and the airfares are K300 to K400 one way. How can they afford a return ticket with this amount? That's why they all come here to cities and towns

When I was a young kiap serving in Green River, the government provided a plane every day at 8 o'clock in the morning. This plane was on time every day and it served Teleformin, Oksapmin, Nuku and came back with no problem at all. But today, these planes are not there anymore and the public servants have to pay for their own airfares.

So by right sizing the public services, we can be able to look after them and train them well to ensure they do whatever task the government desires of them.

I commend the Minister and I would like you to make sure those courses are available so that every public servant must not join the department go through PILAG first.

24/06

They must do a course and then advance from there to ensure they are given the tools to do their job.

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA (Gulf) – I would like to make a few comments as most of the issues have been covered by previous speakers.

I join them in commending the Minister responsible who also was a former provincial administrator and I believe that he would use that experience and give specific instructions on

how to restructure PILAG properly so that it serves the provinces, the districts and the statutory authorities that we have and the departments at the national level.

Mr Speaker, I fully agree with the honorable Minister for Lands, having been a head of department back in the 80s and then serving as chief of staff and later as a politician. I have worked with all manner of public servants and I am still doing that now in my province. The biggest thing I find with them, whether they are university students or have graduated with masters they do not know and do not understand the basics of public service; the roles, ethics and standards and laws especially the financial management act, the procurement act, and the general orders.

Not only do they not understand it, but they also do not apply it. I want this to be taught basics in PILAG. Every public servant must know and they should not be employed permanently. They should be put on a provisional basis and once they are in; whether they are in education, health or commerce and industry, in the provinces or districts, they must at least attend a three to six months training to learn at PILAG all these things.

I would like the Minister to take note and I think it is about time that we advertise and get people trained at a middle management level to manage the local level governments. The local level governments need help. And if mine is the same as all of yours, you need help at the district, so we should be recruiting directly. We have graduates sitting out there looking for employment, why can't we get them in.

The last point I want to make is, many of us live in towns and cities and we do not know the problems that our people face in the villages. Many of the public servants we recruit would like to have 24 hours of running water, electricity, have vehicles to drive and a regular 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., jobs. We need to change that mentality and we need PILAG to instill in our people how to serve. People need to know how to chop firewood or how to handle an axe and a knife.

They need to know first aid, how to put up a shelter. These were skills that were taught by the Australian School of Public Administration to kiaps and later to the patrol officers. And these are skills that you still need for public servants to have, to equip them when they are out there serving our people in the rural areas. I would like PILAG to have a look at that and do these basics for our public servants who enter the workforce.

25/06

But most of all, Mr Speaker I would like to commend the Minister for a good start and take note of those comments we're making and put into practice. Thank you.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA (Kiriwina-Goodenough) – Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I would also like to debate on this very important paper, that is presented by the Minister responsible for Public Service.

Mr Speaker, all of us seated here keep on talking about the public service, and we mostly talk about public service in the urban areas only. When we say public servants, we are speaking about public servants in Port Moresby, in Lae and in Alotau, but we are forgetting about the very important public servants in the most rural parts of this country. Like the policeman, didiman, nurses, teachers and many of which are very disciplined officers. You look at public servants in Port Moresby when fortnight comes, they go to clubs. You will even see them there, straight after 12 o'clock. But when you go back to the rural areas like Kiriwina Goodenough, our teachers are dedicated and our aid post orderlys are dedicated. They work from 8 o'clock to 4 o'clock and even 4:06 p.m. they are still dedicated to their work.

Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister for this very important paper today. But some of the basic things that a public servant has to put in his head starts at school.

Mr Speaker, down at primary school, to high school, the national or secondary schools and up to university, look at most of our young people, discipline is lacking right at the onset. When it's time for school, they dress up like rascals or criminals and go to school, with trousers hanging, shirts all over the place. These very same people who are trained in our schools and make their way to University with lack of discipline. And then we go ahead and employ them, and when they get into the public service, they dress up similar to when they were in high school. So really it should go back to right at the basics.

This public service thing that we're talking about must go back to the education system. It must go and infiltrate every system that we have. They must learn the basics of discipline. We can't wait for them to come to the public service and discipline them. How do you expect them to be disciplined when right at the beginning they were undisciplined? Discipline must start at the classroom, to the University and all the way to the public service.

Mr Speaker, I've never worked for the public service, for 27 years I worked in the private sector. We start at 8 o'clock and finish at the allocated time. And when we go in, we clock in first. You fill up a book, or use the clock-in machine to clock in and it says that you started work at this time and at this time you clocked out.

This system should also be introduced in the public service system, especially in the urban areas, because most of the slack public servants are here in the urban areas. You cannot blame the rural public servants who are performing extremely well. I remember reading in the papers some years ago, a teacher, who's from the Milne Bay Province, dedicated herself at

Menyamya. She is still there at old age and an aid post orderly in Menyamya in Morobe province. I spent seven years of my life up there. This aid post orderly would come down to the rural area to get his medicine, get on the vehicle and get off and walk right up to the mountains, just to serve the people.

26/06

We need discipline in the public service. One thing that I have seen is, we can have a very good statement presented today, but it looks like we are repeating ourselves, talking about the same issue year in, year out.

We can seriously look at getting some of these people who are in this system and put them in the private sector to allow them to understand how the private sector operates.

Get trainers to train our people who lack motivation. Let's get out and get people in the private sector, bring them into the public sector and allow them to teach our public servants how things are done in the private sector.

Some of them always sleep past 8 o'clock and they are still sleeping. When it rains like today, they will wake up at half past nine to go to work. We need to get some discipline in there.

University standards today have dropped, Mr Speaker. I read with interest in the social media and I hear from our students from the University of Technology, of a young man who was abused in his room by 20 men. A young Papuan man who just went to the University of Technology last week.

They walked into his room, pulled him out and they abused him. Another young man came to his defense and they punched him also. What kind of institutions do we have, that are training leaders of the future?

We need to change these institutions, too. Change and discipline them. Tell them to dress properly when attending classes. They need to change their attitudes. You cannot be smoking on your way to class. The discipline in these institutions have evaporated. Even staff members are drinking, smoking and chewing betelnuts with students. There is no discipline in the system.

So, I commend this Bill, but I also want this Bill to go further. It must also cover our institutions. If you want to employ somebody from an institution, get them to understand that there must be discipline.

Mr Speaker, another thing I want to discuss with us is that; there are plenty of parents who are employed by the public service, once they retire, one of their children or a relative usually takes over their position. Nepotism is in place.

We must get rid of that. You cannot just get your child and put them in your position when you retire. There are people in the system who have worked very hard to get into that position, but yet we get our relatives to fill up that position. That must stop. They do not know what they are supposed to do there, yet we give them positions to work on.

Finally, Mr Speaker, in our public service, there are people still doing the same thing every year. There is no motivation in the system. People need to move on from positions. Enough of being comfortable in where you are for 10 to 20 years.

Departmental heads and the heads of sectors must look into people who are not moving on from positions for more than five years. Move them to a different position and bring in other people to work in their positions.

I say this, Mr Speaker, because in my district, I have a lady who does my printing. And she has sat on that desk for the last 15 to 20 years. When she doesn't want to go to work, there is no one there to print cheques. This is because her boss didn't look into situations like that.

So, we have decided to bring in another young lady as a trainee to be trained for that system. We need to rotate our public servants. We cannot continue to let them work in the same systems year in, year out.

I commend the Minister for this paper. I hope that it is not only a paper that will be discussed here but it will be a paper that will bring a change in the public service and for the good of the country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr FABIAN POK (North Waghi) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Minister for Public Service for tabling the report on the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance.

I want to say that there are plenty of us in this country. We, the politicians always blame the public servants when things go wrong. But, I think we should take the blame ourselves because when you look at the public service structure in this country, we effectively have three public service and different structures that have their own bosses.

For national public service, when the Minister for Public Service comes into office, they will appoint their own secretary. For provincial public service, when a governor comes into office, he will appoint his own provincial administrator. For district public service, when the member of a district comes into office, they will appoint their own Chief Executive Officer (CEO). They are responsible to us, so there is no structure.

27/06

For example, the Secretary for Agriculture is not aware of how many coffee gardens we have in North-Waghi because there is no line of communication and connection between the National Department of Agriculture and the provincial and district levels. This is where we need to overhaul our public service. Now we are blaming the public service but we are the ones that are controlling the public service. We are controlling the public servants at three different levels and they are not synchronising. If you ask the Secretary for Health about the numbers of centres in North-Waghi and their operational status, likewise to the Secretary for Agriculture, he won't know. Because he is not synchronising with the province and district health levels for him in order to understand where we are going as a country.

Sometimes, we have to sit down and relook at the public service structure and see where we are going. Now, when you look at the public servants in our provinces in the country, we have gone through a situation where most of them want to become provincial and district administrators. They may not be the best but just because they are the citizens of that particular province and district, they feel entitled to become provincial administrators and district administrators. This system is now getting out of hand and we have to correct it. Otherwise, we will have no public servants left. Now, I see that the district public servants are relying on assistance from DSIPs. This is because no funds are coming from the National Department of Agriculture to the provincial and district agriculture levels. When the Department of Agriculture puts a submission for the Budget, they don't consider what is happening in the provinces and districts. So how can we say, we want to grow coffee, tea, rubber, cocoa, and copra? How would we do this because people who have been growing were not been looked at properly because of the structure of the public service? We have to sit down and look at the public service structure.

When you try to look at the police and Correctional Service, they are going from the Headquarters to the districts. We have to allow for similar functions at the Department of Agriculture and Health so that they can operate from the headquarters to the districts. The headquarters must liaise with the province and the districts in a way that there is less political interference because the staff in the district comes under the district CEO. When the CEO has a connection with the provincial administrator (PA), then there is a channel of communication, but if not, then the PA is working in isolation and would not know what is happening in the districts. When there is no connection and channel of communication between the provinces and the headquarters in Waigani, we are lost. The country will not grow. The Department of

Agricultural can make some good policies but those who were mandated to carry out the policies are not connected to carry out their duties.

However, only a few provinces appoint their provincial administrator from other provinces. Otherwise, the rest of the provinces are appointing the citizens of the province. Who knows, whether they are appointing a qualified PA or not, we don't know but the public servants are saying, I am from this province and I must become the provincial administrator or I must become the district administrator and this practice is now getting out of hand. It is like we are supporting this because governors come and appoint their own man to be the provincial administrator and the district members come and appoint their own man for the CEO post. This is the scenario at the moment. We have to face the reality; this is what is happening on the ground and nobody will understand. Waigani does not know what is happening in the provinces and districts and so how do our people benefit.

The Members at the district level are looking at the DSIPs and the Governors at the provincial level are looking at both the PSIPs and grants to support everything in their provinces and the same at the national level. When they want to make a Budget, for example, the Department of Agriculture and Health Department, do they look at how to help their health and agriculture sectors in their districts? Most of them don't and this is the problem with the structure that we have.

If we continue to politicise the public service – for instance someone can hold a Masters Degree and is highly educated, but if you politicise them in all three arms of the government, they are not going to work. It is going to become a “Yes Master system” and once they are in this system, there won't be any public service. Let's not kill ourselves. We have three levels of public service that don't synchronise and understand each other. If they don't understand, then as a government and as concerned Papua New Guinean and Members of this Parliament, we must not politicise the public service.

Now, we are going into the election in two months, some of us will come back and some of us will not but public servants will still be here. They must synchronise to run the country or province or district so that we will leave them to run it.

28/06

So, the Public Service Minister can look at it how we could structure the public service from the headquarter like the Agriculture Department and the other line departments to link with the provinces and districts. This is where we will grow our coffee and cocoa.

We are saying that health center and road system are deteriorating because we are not synchronizing. The Works unit in North Waghi district did not receive any funds to do road maintenance work and they are now expecting it from DSIP. In the provinces, they are expecting it from the provincial budget. Once we synchronize the public service we must work to serve the people of this country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr MICHAEL NALI (Mendi – Minister for Works) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Public Service Minister for bringing in this very important Paper and providing the opportunity for us to discuss about the public service.

Mr Speaker, you and I are just politicians and people have mandated us for a five-year term in office and we are almost to the end. We have less than eight or nine weeks remaining.

Mr Speaker, with the issue of writs, we will return back to the election but public service will remain. And the politicians think that we are much stronger and more powerful, I tell you this is a wrong perception, the public service system still stands very powerful.

Mr Speaker, when I entered Parliament in 1994, I heard the name of a very vibrant public servant departmental head, they called him Sir Puka Temu. Now Sir Puka Temu become a Member of Parliament and is with us. I want to inform you all that in the past, the public servants became the football of the politicians until Sir Puka Temu came in and brought the reform. That's why, when politicians want to do some little move within the system or department as a responsible Minister, if you want to touch public service, they are protected. When Sir Puka became the Public Service Minister, he brought that Bill into effect and I was there to witness him present that paper.

Mr Speaker, he's still here and so many times when you speak, I admire many debates of Sir Puka apart from the many points of order raised, but many of his debates are very good and productive and he always gives reason why he takes a stand in every issue that we discuss here.

Mr Speaker, as the political head for the Department of Works, my responsibility is to ensure that department runs smoothly. I want to inform you that I have been communicating with only one person in my department. I only communicate with the departmental head and that's it. That departmental head happens to be a Southern Highlander and I am a Southern Highlander as well. We communicate with each other on a professional level and not like colleague brothers from one province and whatsoever.

Mr Speaker, the public service from 1992, 1997, 2002 is not the same compared to our public service today. We have literally corrupted the system ourselves.

Mr Speaker, whilst watching the war between Russia and Ukraine I picked up this information from an international journalist who said, President Putin advisors only advise him on things he wants to hear.

29/06

There is no freedom of opinions or fair advice towards the President. If the advice does not go down well with him; because he is in power, there might be consequences for their actions.

Mr Speaker, let me come back to our country.

(Laughter in the chamber)

Mr Speaker, I am witnessing our public service machinery collapsing. I totally agree with the Member for North Whagi, Honourable Dr Fabian Pok, that the public service must not always be blamed. We have some very faithful public servants out there, who give their lives to serve the Independent State of Papua New Guinea without fear or favour whether they get promoted or not.

But coming back to us, as political heads, as soon as you are appointed as a Minister, we try to put our family members, church mates or school mates to get those jobs. We are not honest enough to declare our interest. We appoint them and put them in important institutions where this country depends heavily on.

Mr Speaker, so what do you get? Why did you put them there from the start? You can only be good as your man. When you have the right people around you, as a Minister or as a government, you will receive good outcome because the people around you are doing their job well. But, if you appoint people who do not deserve to be on those positions, what do you expect?

Mr Speaker, my next point is regarding mobile phones. Many of you here can speak and write better English because of the level of education you have achieved. I am not saying that you are the privilege ones but we must thank the Lord for his wisdom. Some of us have to sweat and struggle to become who we are today. Without us and you people, the system and the society will not function. We all have different responsibilities to play.

But I am starting to realise that someone is using my phone to write up texts about some very important issues and debates in this country and that makes us think that this guy is very smart. He is a rocket scientist.

Mr Speaker, what we do not realise is that it is not me who is writing up all these stories on the phone about great debates that are going on in the country. Someone else is writing up the story for me which I am taking the glory for nothing and I am considered one of the best in the country.

We have to be very careful. If one of us is in this category, you must think twice and evaluate yourself. We are all fathers here. We have families so whatever we do here, our children will follow it.

Mr Speaker, many a times I look at myself and picture those pre-independence days.

30/06

Our Grand Chief had a reasonable level of education but my fore fathers like Mome Pangia, Yano Belo, Sam Atiba Yuwei and all my fathers were illiterate. Sometimes I look at the quality of the *Constitution* that was written in admiration. It brought us this far, compared to now, we are well educated then them. I have a photo of Kondomagaudo in my phone and he is from Simbu. I heard a lot of stories about him and I decided to keep a photo of him well dressed in his traditional attire. I heard that Kondomagaudo went to Sydney to attend a very important meeting. He was illiterate, don't know how to use fork and knife at dinner table and some Australians laughed at him but he got up and he said, one day my son will speak the language that you are speaking, Mr Speaker, Kondomagaudo spoke about you and I, about us. We are smart well-educated people and we can do better for our country.

That's why I asked all of us and if some of us are doing the wrong things in this country, you must know that there is no other one apart from you. I am the only Member for Mendi now and there is none behind me. So, whatever I do must be best for my people during my time.

And if I do the right things, I will leave a great legacy behind for the future children. They will talk about me and say good things about me. But, if I leave some bad legacies behind, they will look at my kids and say bad things about them. How can my kids carry the burden of my wrong doings?

Mr Speaker, I think that we have lost track a little but we have not lost it completely. We are left with nine more months and Members of Parliament, staff, ministers and the government will remain until election is done and when new government is formed. I beg you all, let's not repeat the same old mistakes again.

An officer working in a public office, sacrificed his time and effort and worked all his life thinking that one day he will become a departmental head, but a politician comes and takes a short cut at everything. Try to put yourself in his shoes, Mr Speaker. We bring in our own cronies and the guy who has been working all his life to get up there one day, what do you do to ease his frustrations.

To conclude Mr Speaker, I want to say this to all of us here, many times we pinpoint that public servants are really bad. Spare one moment to ask this question, am I a promoter of public service and good governance or I am one of them who destroys the system and process of the government?

Many times, on this Floor of Parliament I have heard one man at my back who talked about respecting the system and process of the government and this is none other than the Governor of Enga. The system and the process of the government must be respected and enough to avoid becoming bullies. We must respect the system of government and the responsibility is there and its clear cut. We politicians must play the role of politicians and allow the public servants to carry out their duties designated. And the private sector must carry out their designated duties as they are designated. Come on, who says we can't live a good life or create a good country and who says its late.

Mr Speaker, it's not late, there is no war here and if we have done somethings wrongly let's correct it now.

31/06

And please, my Honourable Members, enough of spoiling the public service, respect them, seek advice from them and push the agenda of the people and not our own agendas.

Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving my time.

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

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

Paper noted

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising adjourn to 22 March 2022 at 2 o'clock p.m.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari – Pori – Prime Minister & Minister for Bougainville Affairs) – Mr Speaker, I thank the Members of the Parliament for sitting late into this term of Parliament.

I did make mention on one or two occasions that we received accusations that members aren't working but to have members on both sides of the House sitting, working, and going through Government Business is notable and I thank you all for coming in.

On this note, Mr Speaker, I move that Parliament adjourn to the next sitting as moved earlier on.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.40 p.m.