

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 22 November 2022

DRAFT HANSARD

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FIRST DAY

Tuesday 22 November 2022

The Parliament met at 2 p.m., according to the Terms and Resolution of October 14, 2022.

The Deputy Speaker, (**Mr Koni Iguan**) took the Chair at 2 p.m.

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

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 2.45 p.m., and invited the Member for Samarai-Murua and the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, **Honourable Isi Henry Leonard** to say Prayers.

‘Papa God, yumi kisim dispela taim long lus tingting lo olgeta samting, na mipela laik preisim yu na givim tingting blo mipela i kam lo you, bikos yu God blo mipela, bikos yu King blo mipela na Creator blo mipela, na yu Papa blo mipela.

Mighty God, mipela no gutpela man. We are unworthy to call your name because we are forced out of you glory. But lo dispela avinun mipela i hamamas, bikos mipela i ken kam lo yu na putim olgeta hevi blo mipela i kam lo yu na you ken fogivim mipela. And this afternoon, mipela i tok tenk yu, for the privilege and the highest honour of forgiveness.

Papa God, this afternoon, mipela i kam lo you bikos you God, not only of the universe, but yu God blo dispela haus, the peoples House. That is why, mipela i kam lo yu, na askim Spirit tambu blo yu, to join us, inspire us and help us. As mipela i go insait lo dispela haus lo dispela wik, na dispela bisnis we ba mipela i toktok lo em. Papa God, mipela askim yu lo blesim ol lida man husait igo pas, Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader, the Finance Minister, Treasurer na olgeta lain mipela stap lo hia, Mighty God, mipela askim lo Spirit tambu blo yu lo em i ken lidim mipela. Bikos dispela wik sesen i impoten. Mipela bai burukim ol gudnes na blessing blo dispela kantri. Yes, mipela mas admit dat mipela nogat planti, lo fidim wan wan maus lo dispela kantri, for our 8 million people. Mipela i nogat planti. But Mighty God, mipela andastendim na bilip olsem, if Jesus can feed those number of people in his time, with a number of fish and bread, nothing is impossible for you to do for this country at this time.

That is why, mipela i askim lo spirit tambu blo yu lo em i ken lidim mipela lo insait lo dispela wik, as we deliberate on our budget. And that is the package that must be delivered to the people in our time and in this country.

So mighty God, bless us all and help us as we go through this very important session. And as we all unite, wantaim wanpela tingting, mipela olgeta ba risaitim gen dispela prea we Jisas i bin tisim ol disaipel blo em. Amen.'

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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

(a) Mr Ken Fairweather on 24 October 2022. He was first elected as Member for Sumkar Open Electorate in the Eight National Parliament, from 2007 to 2012, and re-elected to the same seat in the Ninth National Parliament, from 2012 to 2017.

02/01

(b) Mr Steven Mambon on 25 October 2022. He was elected as Member for the Markham Open Electorate in the Fourth National Parliament from 1987 to 1992.

(c) Mr Paul Isikiel on 6 November 2022. He was elected as Member for the Markham Open Electorate in the Ninth National Parliament from 2012 to 2017.

During that term, he served as Minister for Housing and Urban Development following the formation of the O'Neill-Dion Government from 2012 to 2017.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentlemen, I invite all honourable members to rise in their places.

I thank the Parliament.

QUESTIONS

Sacking of Ok Tedi Mine Managing Director

Mr JAMES DONALD – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker for recognising the people of North Fly. My question is directed to the Minister for State Enterprises on the recent sacking of the Managing Director (MD) for Ok Tedi Mine. The reason why I want to ask this question is because the people of North Fly and Western Province are part and parcel of the Ok Tedi

Mine and they are shareholders of the mine too. We want to know whether there has been any problem that led to sacking the MD.

So my questions are as follows:

(1) Can the Minister confirm or deny the speculation of sacking the current MD for Ok Tedi Mine? This information came out on Friday last week and it was speculated over the weekend and it is Tuesday now.

(2) Can the Minister inform us as to the reasons why the MD was sacked and for what offence he committed so that we can be made aware?

(3) We are aware that the term of the current MD has six (6) months still remaining before it expires. We heard from reliable sources that there was no board meeting held for sacking him. Can the Minister also confirm or deny that the board didn't sack him but he was sacked on other grounds? We need to be aware so we can inform our shareholders, people in the province, and Papua New Guinea of this speculations.

Thank you.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge the Member for North Fly for this important questions. Before I respond to the three questions, I'd like to outline a few important things.

03/01

Firstly, we must all understand that Ok Tedi Mining Limited is a company that is owned ultimately by the Government and the landowners for the people and is managed by a competent Board, led by a Chairman and other directors. So either the Prime Minister, myself or other ministers have no direct control over the operational management matters of this very important mining asset we have in the country.

Secondly, for any Chief Executive Officer or Managing Director of any company, his performance and continued employment depends upon his continued performance and meeting of set budget frameworks, operational plans and expectations of the Board of Directors and the shareholders. So, no one in this country even ourselves are indispensable. We have a five-year contract with our people and we go back to them to renew it. So just like that in a similar principle, any CEO or anyone for that matter employed in a senior position. His continued tenure is depended upon his or her performance.

In the case of our good Managing Director for Ok Tedi Mining Limited. I can say that these are board and management matters. In fact, this is actually the second time; I am hearing

that the good Managing Director has been terminated. Of course, under his contract of employment the power to terminate his employment rests with his employer which is a company managed by the Chairman and directors of the Board. The Board has the power to sack or allow a particular person to continue in his or her employment and that is guided by a contract of employment that is normally signed by a Managing Director. All those matters are operational and management issues which I am not aware of. I cannot confirm or deny whether the good gentleman has been terminated or not because these are management matters and I have not received any formal advice as the trustee shareholders delegate of this company. This is news to me. The proper venue for us to find out why this happened is to check with the Chairman and the directors of the company.

So, to answer his question, I am not aware of this and I cannot confirm or deny that he was terminated. He may have been terminated or he may not have been terminated. These are operational and management matters that I am not aware of, but I can find out from the Chairman. Lastly to answer his question, I am not sure whether a board meeting was held or not. Meetings are held periodically. Again, these are management matters and I do not know when Board meetings are normally held. So Mr Speaker, these are my answers and I would like to thank the good member for asking them. Thank you, Mr Speaker,

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Finance to take note.

We note that the procurement logistics supplies are very important as part of our public health system in our country. With the recent media reports that said that some of the hundred per cent test kits were rotting away. This is a very important matter that must be addressed by the Department of Health.

My question is that, can the Minister confirm this particular issue? What are the reasons behind the medical kits rotting away? Is this to do with the logistics companies? Can the minister clarify whether the Department of Health has a system of reporting with respect to the logistics companies that are distributing medical supplies in our country to give a report on whether their performance is okay or not?

04/01

So, these are my questions directed to the Minister for Health. It's an important matter and it's in the media reports and our people need to know these issues regarding medical supplies rotting away in the country.

Thank you.

Dr LINO TOM – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the shadow Health Minister, Honourable Elias Kapavore and a good leader for PNC for raising these important questions.

Firstly, the media is actually sensationalized the issue that we had. The delivery of medicines especially the 100 per cent kit that the Health Department does are using a system called the Push System. So, it's actually not done based on the needs at the distal health centers. What it actually does is just based on the previous reports that they received and usually compile a set of medicines and medical equipment that they usually push towards their health facilities.

The procurement system took almost five months to deliver. They advertised it on the 21 of January 2022 and the signed contract reached the Health Department on the 1 of August 2022. So, you can see that's about six months that lapsed and that is the cumbersome processes that we have within the MPC.

So basically, from Cabinet all of us know that when we give out the contracts to the drug distributing companies, they usually do advance procurement of medicines because warrants are not released on time and the medicines actually arrived early. However, when we give out the logistic contracts, it takes another six months. So, there we realised the delay.

Post-Courier actually took a picture of two empty containers that belonged to the drug supplying company, sitting in the wharf. They were no real containers that contain medicines.

What actually happened is that when the drug procurement company supplies the drug, it's supplies to the drug distribution company, which is the logistic company. It doesn't go to the area medical store. It goes straight to the logistic company. So, when the contract was put out, the technical financial evaluation committee, sat and deliberated on those companies that applied and they gave recommendations, but recommendations were not followed by MPC. So, MPC decided to choose some other companies that they thought were eligible and contracts were given to those companies.

The other delay that happened was that, those companies never had the financial capacity. The State Solicitor had put a clause into every contract that there must be a down deposit or bank guarantee of 10 per cent. Because a lot of other logistic companies when they get the first initial payment made by government they usually take off with payment and they don't deliver. So, they realized the delay had nothing to do with the Health Department. The contract reached the office of the Health Secretary on the 1st of August and the contracts were actually paid.

05/01

There was yet another delay that happened, and that was, the companies could not comply with the contract by putting in the 10 per cent bank deposit that they had to do. We know that the process at the NPC is quite cumbersome and therein lies the problem.

We have summoned our pharmaceutical services standard branch of the National Department of Health to look into the discoloration of the Panadol. What they will do is back track the procurement system and they will find out when these drugs were procured, how long they were stored and how long it took for the drugs to be actually distributed to our area medical stores. Those reports will be made available as soon as they are ready.

Mr Speaker, one of the things I also want to raise here is that we must know that drugs are essential things that need to be procured on time. As a government it is quite difficult because of cashflow issues due to the NPC system that we have, because of companies that are supposed to deliver. It is all a myriad of problems that resulted in the delay that we had.

One of the things that we are trying to do and I want to thank our good Prime Minister on this is that we are trying to establish a separate procurement commission for drugs so that drugs are delivered on a timely basis as time is of essence. And based on the PAC recommendations being done, work has already been done. We have set up a secretariat that is looking into this. It is working in collaboration with some of our very important development partners like ADB and others to come up with a system and model that will see our drugs being delivered on time.

Thank you when the full report is available I will present it here.

Mr POWES PARKOP – My question is directed to the Minister for State Enterprises. Before I proceed with my question, I would like to give a brief background. My question is in relation to BSP. And we all know that there has been a lot of complaints not only from the public but even us, Members too. The complaints are not only from our urban customers but also our rural people. The complaints vary from fees to whatever you name it, we complain about it.

Here in Parliament we burden our complaints to the Treasurer and he tries to control it by talking to the Central Bank but one way we can get our complaints across is to the BSP board. The state has equity with BSP and together with MVIL we have about 20-21 per cent. So, what is the logic behind the fact that we do not have a state representative in the BSP company board?

It is illogical and I fail to understand the rationale behind this. Can we have a state representative on the BSP board? It could be the Minister or someone appointed by the Minister, to represent the State; so that if we the Members of Parliament have any complaints we can channel it through our representative and the same goes for our ordinary citizens as well. Who is in charge of making policy guidelines for BSP? Whose interests are they serving?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – I would like to thank the Governor for NCD for his very important question. This is not the first time it has been raised; not in Parliament but other venues and its an issue that KCH has the majority shareholder of BSP has been raising numerous times in the past.

06/01

The reason by BSP bank was that because it was a commercial bank and it was in the process of expanding to other parts in the region, there was an element of PNG Government influence at the board level so they wanted to ensure that this was dealt with at that time. So the issue of having representatives from the major shareholder on the board was put aside for the time being

Again, I can tell this Parliament that I personally raised this issue with the Chairman of the Bank and I was also told that they wanted to be listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and again the issue of government presence on the share register was thought to be of some hindrance of whoever wanted to invest. So, those were left behind but now that the bank has expanded to other parts of the Asia Pacific region and now that the bank has already been listed on the Australian Stock exchange, I personally feel that it is an appropriate time for me to raise the issue of board representation on that board. So I will simply do that and then report to Parliament.

Secondly on the issue of the fees that are being charged by the bank, these are beyond the control of any major shareholder. These are regulatory matters that are within the province of the Bank of PNG so we should all raise it with the Bank of PNG.

I thank the Governor for these important questions.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Question
Long Queues For BSP Bank - Lae

Mr LUTHER WENGE – Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

I want to raise a question today to the Minister for State Enterprise. We appreciate the good work the BSP Bank is doing in providing banking services to the people of this country and we also accept and appreciate that we own that bank as the majority shareholder of that Bank.

But, my question is in relation to the long lines that we have at the banks. If you happen to come to Lae on a working day or even on Saturday, you will see a long line at the bank and that line commences at 3 a.m., in the morning, not at 8 a.m. They have to arrive very early at the bank and form a queue because they need the service. But the line seems to be very long. I said to myself, ‘these people are out of their mind, to stand like that.’ We have now reached the age of advanced technology and the bank should be able to devise a system to rectify that problem of long lines. Sometimes the people can get killed because the line extends to the road.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Point of Order! Can you ask the Governor to ask his Supplementary Question?

Mr LUTHER WENGE – Yeah well, to ask the question, I have to provide the background information on the circumstance, I can’t just raise the question. Intelligence must come into play.

Can the Minister ask the Bank to come up with an effective system to remedy the long queues we see every working day outside the BSP banks in Lae?

Thank you, Mr Speaker,

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I also thank the good Governor of Morobe for his question. Again, like the first question that was raised, these are regulatory matters that can be regulated by the Bank of PNG.

07/01

However, I will raise them at my level to the chairman of the Bank of South Pacific. It is not a good sight to see long queues and it is happening all over the country. It is up to the bank to build infrastructure if there is a need to open up more branches to be able to deal with this problem and I would like to thank the Governor of Morobe for raising this question.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also want to use this opportunity to announce to this Floor that the Marape-Rosso government has made a decision to apply and establish another commercial bank to operate in this country. For example, smaller countries like Fiji have more than eight commercial banks operating in the country so, in a country of more than ten million people, we need more banks. Now, if Westpac and ANZ are downsizing their operations and do not seem to be keen on expanding their presence into remote areas then it is incumbent upon all of us as leaders to seek to establish another bank if we think that the BSP and others banks are not providing the services that our people need.

Mr Deputy Speaker, many of our people do not bank their monies because BSP charges so many fees even just to make minimal withdrawals. It is incumbent on a responsible national government to set-up another bank.

I can announce that Cabinet in principle has approved a new commercial bank to be established and called the National Banking Corporation. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, we have done most of the work and we are now 85 per cent through so before the end of next year this country should have another full-fledged commercial bank that will hopefully deal with some of those concerns that have been raised and be available all around the country and even to the remote areas like what PNGBC was doing in the past.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with the support and encouragement of the Prime Minister, I can confidently say that we have very hard for this and we will soon see the establishment of another commercial bank.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr RAMSEY PARIWA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of Madang.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my series of questions are directed to the Minister for Mining and I would like the Prime Minister to take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I come from a mining province and my questions are in relation to mining in the Madang province which is operated by the Ramu-Nickle Management Limited.

The first part of questions relate to the review of MOA of the Ramu-Nickle Cobalt in Madang province. The MOA is reviewed every five years, since the mine commenced operation in 2000. The last review was done in 2013 which expired in 2018.

Mr Deputy Speaker, since being appointed as Minister for Mining in the Marape-Rosso government, were you briefed or are you aware that the MOA has expired and Ramu-Nickle Copper Mine has operated for the last four years without an MOA?

Mr Deputy Speaker, legally speaking, the Ramu-Nickle Cobalt Mining has been unlawfully operating for more than four years. In other words, there is no legally binding MOA between the stakeholders for four consecutive years.

Review of MOA

My questions are;

(1) Can the Minister for Mining confirm to this House, whether he had received my letter dated 1 November 2022, requesting him to immediately sanction a review of the MOA within 14 days?

(2) Can the Minister inform the people of Madang and this House, if there are any plans to conduct a review of the MOA before the end of this year?

08/01

Mr Deputy Speaker, the second part of the questions relate to the payment of development levy by a developer of natural resources in this country, pursuant to *Section 98 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Governments*.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is mandatory by *Section 98 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Governments*, that a developer of natural resources shall pay out of his own cost a development levy to the affected provincial and local-level governments. The same law also provides that an *Act of Parliament* shall be enacted to cater for the rates to which the development levies shall be paid, the management of it and the sharing arrangement between the affected provincial and the local-level governments and the application of the funds.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that for the development of petroleum resources like oil and gas, the *Oil and Gas Act* caters for that. This has been incorporated into the Benefits Sharing Agreements resulting in the developer of the PNG LNG now paying development levy's annually to the affected provincial government and local-level governments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am also aware that in the logging industry developers pay development levy in the form of log export development levy to the provincial and local-level governments.

Unpaid Development Levy

(3) Can the Minister for Mining inform this House why there is no provision in the *Mining Act 1992* regarding the rates at which the development levy will be paid? The management of it, the sharing arrangement between the affected provincial and local-level governments and the application of the funds as dictated by *Section 98 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Government*.

(4) Can the Minister for Mining confirm to this House that the non-adherence of *Section 98 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Government* by the *Mining Act 1992* is a serious constitutional breach and if so, can the Minister act in rectifying it immediately?

Mr Deputy Speaker, my next two questions concern the illegal mine of chromite by the developer of Ramu Nickel. The mining lease granted to Ramu Nickel Management Limited was only to mine the nickel and cobalt and no other minerals.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it has come to my attention and knowledge that the Ramu Nickel Management Limited has been extracting chromite as well as nickel and cobalt. Since Chromite is a highly corrosive mineral, it has not been piped down from Kurumbukari to Basamuk in Raicoast. Chromite has been mined since the commencement of the mining and has been transported to Lae from Kurumbukari in Madang and shipped to China without any detection by the authorities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, hundreds of millions of kina had been made by this illegal mining of chromite.

Illegal Mining

(5) Is the Minister for Mining aware of this illegal mining of chromite by the Ramu Nickel Management Limited?

(6) Can the Minister also assure this House and the people of Madang that such illegality will be addressed immediately and rectified?

Mr ANO PALA – Thank you very much Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Member for this very long detailed and substantive questions.

09/01

Mr Deputy Speaker, these question deserve a very good substantive reply because the people of Madang are interested in hearing the substance and the details of this question. I will therefore ask for the question to be put on notice, so that it can be answered properly with all those important issues that have been raised.

I want to answer them properly and the only way to do so, is to go through with the experts in my department who have got the historical or institutional memory of what has happened in the past. We can then sit down and provide a proper answer that I can give to the Member who can then provide it to his people.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there has been questions raised about this mine many times. There have also been allegations about illegal or improper practices that the Member has raised.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have also been aware of those questions but I have not had the opportunity to look at them in detail. I would like to ask the Member to put those questions on notice paper so that I can answer them properly.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I sit down, I would also like to point out that such questions are important and they deserve to be answered properly. They need to be given the justice that they deserve.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also like to suggest to the Chair to review you the rules of questions on the Floor of this Parliament. Questions of this nature must be given notice of at least one day in advance so that the ministers on the Floor of Parliament can do some preparations and answer them. We must be prepared to answer these questions. Sometimes we bring very important questions on the Floor of Parliament and we are not in a position to give detailed answers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will suggest the Speaker look at and provide a procedure so that important technical questions like this can be given to you a day before they are asked on the Floor of Parliament. The ministers then can give it to their departments who can provide the answers to us and we can then bring it to the Floor of Parliament.

Every time when we are asked important questions like these, your people are hearing it throughout the villages and also worldwide. The answers must be prepared so that the people can hear the substantive and the real answers to the questions.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Madang Baiyer Road

Mr KANSOL HARWAI KAMDARU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of Middle Ramu and giving me this opportunity. I thank God for giving us this day to meet. My questions are directed to the Minister for Works and I want the Minister for Defence and the Prime Minister to also take note.

My first question is in regards to my roads in Middle Ramu, especially the Madang-Baiyer missing link roads for Connect PNG

10/01

The road was started some time ago. The people of Middle Ramu have heard that this road will connect Madang and Baiyer through the Connect PNG Program but the phase of construction is taking too long. The people have expected the road to be completed but it was never eventuated.

We live in a jungle and we have waited for a road for almost 47 years but the road is still yet to be built.

My questions to the Minister are as follows:

(1) Was the Madang-Baiyer missing link road captured in the Connect PNG Program or not? The PNGDF commenced construction but it was never completed. I want the Minister for Works and the Defence to discuss and award the contract to another construction company so that they can speed up the road construction because for 47 years, my people have been in the darkness and I want the road to be completed.

(2) Can the Minister for Defence transfer the road contract to another company so that the road can be completed?

Thank you.

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM – Thank you, Member for Middle Ramu. The Madang-Baiyer road is very important and is being much talked about. The PNG Defence Force have worked on the road for eight years. When I was the Minister for Defence, I went to Middle Ramu and witnessed the work that was going on there.

The current government spearheaded the Connect PNG Program when I went in I became the Minister for Works. I then wrote to the Defence Minister to release the contract to Works so that Works can procure and tender it for companies to bid so that we can award it to a contractor to start the road from Madang to Baiyer. I have already written a letter to the Defence Minister and I am waiting for his acknowledgments and release the road contract officially. When he does, I will put it under the Connect PNG Program as a missing link road to start this project next year. In the Budget, we will tender the road from Baiyer to Ramu and Madang. So, your road is under the Connect PNG Program as a missing link road.

I have written to the PNGDF to stop work on the road because the road construction took almost eight years and yet the road is not completed. So, it is proper for the Works and Highways to get the contract and put it under the Missing Link and tender it and give it to a contractor so that the road can be completed quickly as you wish.

So, I was a Defence Minister that time and I am fully aware of that road. I am only waiting for the Defence Minister to respond to my letter and release the road so that next year we can tender and start it.

So, we did not forget that road, it is under the Missing Link and Connect PNG Program. It is an important road, when this road is completed, it will link Jimi and Ramu Valley where

it has the economic potential. It is also a shortcut route from Madang-Ramu and Baiyer to Highlands Highway.

So, this is a priority of this government to include this under the Connect PNG Program.
Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER — The question was raised to the Minister for Works so, the Minister for Works will respond.

Honourable Minister, I will not allow you to answer this question. The question is raised to the Minister for Works and he has already responded to the question. Another Minister cannot answer the question raised.

Honourable Minister, I ask you to resume your seat.

11/01

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – I would like to say thank you to the people of Kairuku-Hiri for giving me the mandate in the last two terms and now the people of Kairuku for giving me the mandate again to represent them in Parliament.

There was an incident yesterday that occurred at Eliseo Erima shopping center which involved a youth from Aipeana village in the Kairuku district who came down to sell his produce and went to the shopping center to purchase his goods when he was stabbed repeatedly for no good reason.

My question is to the Minister for Immigration. Does his ministry and the Government have plans to address the influx of people moving around in this country?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member you may redirect your question, to the Minister for Internal Security.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – He wants to take note, but it's okay I will direct it to him.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I just want to get clarification from the Prime Minister, maybe in absence of the Immigration Minister.

Honourable member, as advised, you will direct your question to the Minister for Internal Security, since it is a security matter within the country.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Mr Deputy Speaker, my question was framed for the Minister for Immigration to answer because it is a short term issue, of course the issue is a law and order matter and the police are investigating. But how do we solve this problem, is my question.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I understand the Acting Minister for Immigration is the Deputy Prime Minister therefore your question will be answered by him, continue

Control Mass Migration

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. My question to the Acting Immigration Minister is; does the Government have a plan for sorting this issue of mass migration of people from all over the country. I think it's the cause of all social-related violence that is happening in the country. As we move in to the future, does the Government have any laws or legislations in place where we can restrict the movement of people. Yes, we have the freedom to move around, but I think we are allowing too much freedom for people to move around and as a result a lot of problems are arising in the country, such as the innocent life of the youth taken yesterday. He was year-marked to take part in the Kairuku Labor Mobility Program in Australia. It's a wakeup call for us as a country.

So how do we address this issue, do we have plans in place? Some time ago Governor Parkop asked for an internal visa system and some of us in the provincial level are suggesting inter-border or provincial border posts. The Government needs to put up provincial border posts in all provinces and have border securities to check people moving from province to province unnecessarily. Can the acting Minister for Immigration shed some light to the people of Papua New Guinea and I also want the Minister for Internal Security to take note because it's a law and order issue and if it can be dealt with as soon as possible. Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JOHN ROSSO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the good Member for Kairuku on his very important question. Before I answer, I would also like to offer my condolences on the harm and death that came to your people. It is not good that our people are being attacked like this.

12/01

Immigration means people coming in from outside countries so it's not really anything to do with our internal migration. We currently don't have laws that restrict people moving

from one province to another. But I will take this time to reply in my capacity as Deputy Prime Minister. We have a huge problem affecting a lot of us in our urban centers especially the urban-rural drift. Law and order issues surrounding our country has escalated and as a responsible government, we will be trying our best and it will be reflected in the Budget to ensure that we try to address these problems.

We are also looking at ways of re-introducing the *Vagrancy Act* to try to restrict people from moving to urban centers. Part of the other issues also is making certain a better NID system is in place for all our citizens so the police also can have the records and track people moving or migrating to our urban centers.

So, these things combined with border posts to check the movement of our people and see whether they are there for good purpose or bad purpose can come under the safe city programs that the Governor Parkop is now doing and also similar to my city in Lae where we will try to see whether we can have cameras making certain the movement of people are controlled.

But like in any other growing country we have these major social issues so we are trying to address them and we will ensure that in this session for the next year's Budget that the law and order situation becomes our number one priority as we have always said.

So, I will ask for the support of each and every member of Parliament that when the Budget comes here that we ensure that law and order receives one of the biggest slices and becomes priority for all of us. Not just law and order, we will be looking at the justice system, our CIS, and a comprehensive overlook on all our law and order issues. Because as a country without law and order we will be nothing.

So, rest assured my good Member for Kairuku, I will do my best in my capacity as the Deputy Prime Minister to assist the Internal Affairs Minister try to rectify this.

Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Question Time has lapsed.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr SOLAN MIRISM (Telefomim – Minister for Works and Highway) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion (by **Mr Solan Mirisim**) agreed to –

That leave of absence be granted to Sir Julius Chan for the duration of this meeting due to ill health.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr SOLAN MIRISM (Telefomim – Minister for Works and Highway) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Motion (by **Mr Solan Mirisim**) agreed to –

That in accordance with *section 8 (1b)* of the *National Research Institute Act*, Mr Allan Bird and Mr Sam Basil Jr be appointed members of the National Research Institute Council

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Solan Mirisim**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.50 p.m.