

SIXTH DAY

Wednesday 22 March 2023

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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KENNETH SEBEPMIN

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SIXTH DAY

WEDNESDAY 22 March 2023

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

There being no quorum present, the Deputy Speaker stated that under *Standing Order 36* he will resume the Chair at 10.40 a.m.

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.50 a.m., and invited the Governor of Manus, **Honourable Charlie Benjamin**, to say Prayers.

‘Our great gracious eternal and loving Father in Heaven. This morning mipela kam long eye bilong yu as Members of Parliament chosen by you long makim ol pipol bilong yu. Papa yu rausim ol nogut long laif bilong mipela na helpim mipela long halvim ol pipol we yu makim mipela long representim ol. Na interest bilong mipela ino ken go pas. Yu stap wantaim Prime Minister bilong mipela; givim em gutpela wisdom, knowledge na understanding long NEC membas bilong en, long lidim country. Opposition lida tu, yu stap wantaim em na ol membas bilong Opposition long ensure gavaman i ron orait. Papa may presence bilong yu i stap wantaim mipela as mipela i attendim business bilong today.

ANNOUNCEMENT – MEETING TIMES – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, before I go on to the Order of the day, I’d like to inform both sides of the House; the Government and the Opposition, in accordance to the *Standing Order, Section 36 (2) and (3)*, its states very clearly that as the Parliament, we are to go strictly by the time of attending Parliament session.

Therefore, I, on behalf of the Speaker, would like to make this statement to the Honourable House and Honourable Members that as of tomorrow, we will go strictly by the *Standing Order* so that we show punctuality in attendance during Parliament session.

So, I am putting this on notice that the first bell will be rung and it will be suspended to a certain time when there is no quorum. And if there is still no quorum at the time announced during suspension, the Speaker will adjourn Parliament to the next sitting day.

Therefore, I urge all the Members of Parliament to respect the *Standing Order* and to attend Parliament session on time so that we conduct the business of our people in this Honourable House.

QUESTIONS

Media Policy

Mr EREMAN TOBAINING JNR – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of Kokopo, which is the fourth city in Papua New Guinea. My question is directed to the Minister for Information and Communication Technology.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I ask my question, I want to thank the Marape-Rosso Government through the Minister for choosing Kokopo for the very important dialogue meeting with the Pacific countries. I believe it is the first time for all the Pacific countries to come together for this very important meeting that was held in Kokopo a couple of months ago. Thank you.

My question is that, as we face issues portrayed through the front page of the media, namely *Post-Courier*, *The National*, and some other so-called social media. And again, for us leaders and also the public; we have been tarnished and clarified that some of us are these types of people.

This is happening and tarnishing our good Government including the Opposition.

02/06

We all understand that the Ministry and the Department of Information and Communication Technology is currently conducting a review of the media on the ICT policy. Mr Deputy Speaker and Minister, at the same time, there are concerns being raised by the

members of the public that the Government is attempting to suppress media freedom and freedom of speech using the new policy. I believe this Government has addressed this issue to protect the people of this country as well as leaders of our beautiful country. My questions are as follows;

(1) Can the Minister clarify in simple terms, the intent and purpose of the current review of the media policy and what the new policy seeks to achieve?

(2) Specifically, can the Minister explain how the new policy will protect both the media and freedom of speech, a right guaranteed under our *Constitution*?

(3) Can the Minister also clarify whether the new policy seeks to regulate social media space, Facebook, WhatsApp, et cetera?

(4) Can the Minister inform this House and the people of Papua New Guinea of the current status of the review and when the new ICT Policy will be approved by our Government?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and a very good morning to you and the people of Papua New Guinea who are listening to the radio and watching us on the television.

I thank you for the questions that the Honourable Member for Kokopo has raised. I will be very happy to answer so that our people can understand where we are in terms of the review that my department is spearheading.

Regarding the first question, Honourable Member, the intent of the draft National Media Development Policy is to establish an enabling framework to recognize and develop the media sector in Papua New Guinea to support our development agenda. Current research and recent consultations have led us to the consolidation of four main issues within the media sector.

Firstly, is the concerns of journalism that we have today. By concerns, we observe the decline of quality investigative journalism, the impact of sub-standard reporting of the development agenda and the concerns of conduct ethics and accountability of journalists.

Secondly, is the protection of journalists. My ministry through the Department of ICT is currently collating both, quantitative and qualitative data to verify the concerns of safety of journalists. We recognize that at the moment there is lack of protection mechanisms for journalists.

Thirdly on the intent, is the coordination of Government information. My ministry has for the last three years looked at options on how to reorganize State-owned media

outlets so that we coordinate dissemination of Government information better. We recognize that as a Government, we are lacking coordination in Government information dissemination to our people.

03/06

Fourthly on the intent, is the exclusion of SMEs. The Ministry has identified that SMEs particularly in the modern media space are not recognized as professionals and not given appropriate support.

Based on these issues, the draft National Media Development Policy identifies four main objectives:

(1) Facilitate and coordinate access to information for citizens and ensuring the media provides accurate, impartial, and balanced reporting on issues of public interest, including those affecting marginalised or under-represented groups.

(2) Encourage media diversity and support the representation of local and regional voices in media content and ownership.

(3) Ensure media organisations adhere to ethical and professional standards and promote responsible journalism that respects local customs and cultures.

(4) Promote civic engagement and participation in media issues, including through partnerships between media organisations, civil society groups, and government agencies.

By promoting access to information, media diversity, and responsible journalism, the policy aims to support the development of a more informed, engaged, and empowered citizens in Papua New Guinea.

For your second question on how will the new policy help protect and promote media freedom and enhance freedom of speech, early this year, we released –

Mr Allan Bird – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, with great respect to the Honourable Minister who is reading a statement to the House, it would be appropriate if he can present those answers to previous questions later on, as it is taking the opportunity for question time for other Members to raise their concerns.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your Point of Order is in order. I can see that the honourable Minister has a written response in regards to those questions. I will ask the Minister to seek leave of the Chair to address the House and answer those important questions after question time, as this is Question time only.

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – Mr Deputy Speaker, I think it is important to address these questions in detail as they are matters of public importance.

I ask leave of the Chair to answer these questions after the question time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Leave granted.

Ms KESSY SAWANG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Rai Coast, after you the Chair will recognise the Member for Mendi. I have been here on the Chair and seeing him standing the whole week. After you, the Chair recognises the Member for Mendi. Please do continue Member.

Ms KESSY SAWANG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for acknowledging the womenfolk and also the mothers of Papua New Guinea. I also thank you for acknowledging the people of Rai-Coast.

(Members interjecting)

Status Update On WASH Policy

Ms KESSY SAWANG – My questions are directed to the Minister for Planning but since he is not here, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, today is ‘World Water Day’ so let me give a brief background to my question.

Papua New Guinea has a National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Policy from 2015 to 2030. That policy actually highlights some very critical figures, that 89 per cent of people in urban areas only have access to clean water and 33 per cent in rural areas. For sanitation in urban areas, only 57 per cent of people have access to proper sanitation and in rural areas that is 13 per cent.

04/06

Mr Deputy Speaker, 13 per cent of our people have access to basic sanitation, and as you may be aware in our PNG Strategic Plan 2010-2030, we have a national target that the

government has set over a decade ago, that by 2030, 70 per cent of our people, both urban and rural, should have access to clean and safe water and sanitation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have only seven years left, I want to raise a very specific issue on bringing the water to the house for families to access.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when a couple in Papua New Guinea has a baby girl, automatically the task of carrying water becomes her responsibility. This task is slavery because as she grows up, she performs it starting from being a primary school student all the way to high school, and even when she becomes a mother and then grandmother. This task is done every day in the morning and afternoon.

In 2018, the Government made an NEC Decision to establish the National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Authority. I agree with such an institutionalization of this issue of water because when we have this kind of organization that is directly responsible for WASH, we can accelerate our actions toward our national goals. This organization can also assist us in the districts to provide clean safe water and sanitation for our people. I do not know how far this organization has progressed.

(1) Can the Prime Minister tell this House, especially the women and girls in this country, how far the Government has progressed in implementing that NEC Decision to establish a WASH Authority to look at these issues?

On the other note, there are actually opportunities in Papua New Guinea –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honorable Member, I will interrupt you here. I know the importance of the question you want to raise, but we have a Grievance Debate tomorrow so if you would like to debate more on this matter you will be allowed to do so.

This is question time and we have limited time so, I will ask you to go straight to your questions and let the Prime Minister respond.

Ms KESSY SAWANG – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have already asked one question.

(2) In this year's 2023 Budget, how much money has been allocated for WASH?

(3) What is the progress on our national goal, as in how much progress have we made towards that 70 per cent accessibility to clean safe water and sanitation?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Vice Minister and Member for Rai Coast for asking these important questions in terms of how water can be connected to all the families right across the country to be used to benefit from an improved lifestyle.

I know that we are running through the mid-life of the current WASH Plan that targets 2030 for 70 per cent of our citizens and households to have access to clean and safe water, and sanitation.

Just to answer one question quickly, there has been K7 million allocated for this year's budget and I want to show appreciation to European Union and the Australian DFAT, and all our other development partners.

We have a program of up to K600 million worth of contracts that Australian DFAT, ADB, European Union, and World Bank are all partners in, to help to maintain cost to possibly reach 70 per cent of our citizens and households in our country. So, the target of reaching 70 per cent remains by 2030.

In 2023 from indications, anywhere between 20 to 40 per cent depending on which part of the country we are at, but on average from 20 to 40 per cent delivery thus far.

05/06

I want to give an assurance to the honourable leader who has asked this question that our government is conscious about the need and rights for the people to have access to clean water. This is a commitment of our government that is why this year, we have K7 million parked as an indication of our support to counter fund this program going forward.

In relation to when will the bill be coming, the bill that this government proposed to embrace is in its final stage. It will be completed very soon and this Parliament will have the opportunity to look at and pass the bill in relation to WASH.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on the issue of an extra organization, we are a little bit careful about it. We already have the District Development Authority, provincial governments and our National Water PNG on our programs. Every new organization created in our country has a cost of recurrent maintenance apart from the development programs. We are conscious on creation of new authorities, but in the absence of that authority, this might happen in the future.

The districts and provinces have funding allegations under the disbursement guidelines and the procurement process. The districts and provinces can run on programs for localized needs pertaining to the issue of water, health and sanitation of our people. Therefore, I would like to encourage all districts and provinces to embrace the WASH policy that my government

embraces in totality. It is our people's right to have access to clean water wherever they are living.

So, when you receive funding and run your districts and provinces, treat the need for water in as far as your people is concerned, as a key need at the national level. We have not deviated from the focus of delivering to our country's 70 per cent of clean reliable water by 2030. That focus remains and we are ramping up on our national policy and national focus. I encourage the districts and provinces to be mindful about this important need and get going.

Our partnership with the development partners will remain into the future and I will let the Minister for Planning to deliver a statement in relation to the water, health and sanitation issue for people.

Today is World Water Day, please use water wisely and as Members, let's try to work in this program to give our people reliable and clean water.

Thank you.

UOG – Teacher Training Programs

Mr RAPHAEL TONPI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to ask this question to the Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and Sports.

Is the Minister aware that the University of Goroka is the third largest of the seven universities in Papua New Guinea? So far, it is the largest teacher education institution in our country. I am happy that it is an institution which was primarily established for the purpose of teacher training which has over time developed into a university.

What saddens me and therefore prompts me to ask these questions is that, the end product is missed from the quality of performance by students in our high schools and secondary schools in the country.

Therefore, my questions are as follows;

(1) Is the University of Goroka producing the same quality of trained teachers for the future of our children or in the name of continuous upgrade and review conducted over time, it has gradually deviated from the main focus of training quality teachers?

(2) Can the Minister confirm or deny that the University of Goroka has deviated from the main teacher training, and therefore compromised the quality of teacher output?

(3) If so, can the Minister put in place a review with the aim to assess whether proper teacher training is conducted to benefit the students?

Thank you.

06/06

Mr DON POLYE – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. These questions are critical and also very strategic in so far as the University of Goroka and all our universities, technical institutions and the colleges are concerned, whether it be a teaching college or nursing or any other institution.

The question relates to all those tertiary institutions in the country, but UOG in particular. The questions probably refer to three areas: the quality and the relevance of students coming out of the lower institutions up to the higher education institutions; what the government is doing in particular with UOG; and if UOG has the diversified programs away from teaching.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in terms of quality, I have not done a specific study to assess the quality. But generally, I've assessed the output and the performance, looked at the programs of universities and UOG has been no exception. I've looked at it and I'm looking at some of the programs of the University of Goroka at the very present time as I answer these questions from the Honourable Member for Mendi.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the quality in this country from a general observation, from the report I get is that, we have probably allowed the quality of education, especially the higher education, skilled development and academic knowledge to drop to a level that we now realise, we must improve. Quality is very important and it starts in the following areas.

Firstly, Mr Assistant Speaker, is the governance and leadership on the campus of the University of Goroka. For other institutions, I have to some extent realised that the composition of governance and the vice chancellors or especially at the council level, and then right down to the structure of the management system. I think there's been a lot of compromise where I find that the best people have not been appointed to leadership and governance roles at those institutions. UOG is being addressed in that perspective.

I have confidence in the council, the vice chancellor and the team working there, but we'll work together with them to address the leadership and governance issues to address the areas of quality.

I've decided that under the *Higher Education's General Provisions Act*, where it places the authority of appointment on the Minister, I'd like to inform the Parliament and the people that I will change that in the *Act* not to put the authority of appointing the council and the administration on the Minister. It will be done by a collective body and I am looking at the Higher Education Technical Council to make the decision and recommend to the Cabinet.

So, we will free up politicizing of those positions at the council level or even through the council on the administration level and the vice's level. We will put a collective decision-

making body that will work with the National Executive Council to observe those and that's where quality will start. When you put leadership and governance to the right composition then you will find that there will be right people available to drive quality down the whole institution especially, programs. That's number one.

Number two, how we are addressing the issue of quality. In terms of registering every university in Papua New Guinea or other institutions that comes under the Higher Education space, they must meet a national registration standard. That means they have to meet all the requirements to be called a university or higher education institution. That is being looked at and I'm doing it to make sure that UOG and other universities must qualify to be universities because they meet that standard of registration. That means every lecturer must be qualified or have an accreditation. That means those professors must earn that title professor because they're doing research and work. Those that are in the dean level in those particular areas or the schools must also earn by the standards that we will implement.

07/06

So, registration is very important because when people are qualified to a certain level, they will impart knowledge to teachers to go and teach students, then the quality of education that the Member is referring to will be achieved because of quality registered institutions.

The third point is the accreditation of the programs being taught there. The University of Goroka offers not only education and teacher training programs, but also other diversified areas. The programs that are being taught there must be accredited to a standard, not just to the university's standard but also to the national qualification standard. The national qualification standard is coordinated and driven by the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

That standard is bench-marked against some of the best practices in the world. The University of Goroka is correlating and working in partnership with a network of institutions and affiliated accreditation standards in the world so that we have the best programs offered to teachers. The accreditation of programs is very important because that is how we are addressing it.

Another area that I also want to talk about is the research in these institutions. UOG must do research. There cannot be a university if it does offer research programs.

The final area in terms of quality is the digitalization of some programs; online or virtual learning. We would like to increase the number of students that graduated from the University of Goroka with quality teaching skills. There are some programs that can be offered online to

students who may not be able to attend the university due to lack of space, accommodation or learning facilities. Those are the areas that we are addressing in terms of the quality programs that must be taught.

Mr Assistant Speaker, we have started a review. We also have external auditors on standby at the direction of the higher education sector or the department to conduct independent review of the programs at the University of Goroka.

The other question was on UOG deviating from teaching to other areas. From my point of view, a university is a university, meaning they have a broader area of programs that they can administer. I do not see that as a problem if they deviate from teaching. Under the current circumstances, I am informed that every year, we need to graduate 800 teachers.

The University of Goroka can only graduate 400 to 600 students in a year. The Divine Word Open Campus in East New Britain graduates 100 to 200 students per year to meet the mark of 800 but we still fall short of teachers.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the point that was raised by the honourable Member is a valid point. Why should we try to diversify when we are still not meeting the target of graduating 800 teachers from UOG per year?

That was one of the questions that I have raised with the vice chancellors' committee. I have established a vice chancellors' committee whose chair is at University of Technology. They will address these issues and assist UOG to rationalise the programs. Some programs that are taught in some universities are not relevant; for instance, environment, humanities and political science are taught in UOG, as well as UPNG.

UPNG should be offering these programs so that the University of Goroka can concentrate on expanding more on the training of teachers. These programs are put in place so that all universities are cohesive and are working together. The same can be done for technical institutions and colleges so everyone can work together to complement or supplement each other to achieve the quality programs that I am talking about.

Mr Assistant Speaker, we are addressing those issues vehemently, and we are keen to see improvement in the next three to five years. In this term of Parliament, I have a very strong conviction to improve the quality of education and increase the number of teachers that are graduating and going out to the schools. We will then find relevance in the programs that we are administering through these institutions.

08/06

Finally, Mr Assistant Speaker, I was asked a similar question about the National Polytechnic Institute by the Member for Gumine, after the question time, I would ask leave of the Parliament to answer those question as well. Thank you.

Supplementary Question

UOG Must Specialise In Teacher Training

Mr BENJAMIN MUL – I heard that The University of Goroka (UOG) was set out for teacher training only. When we talk about quality, we must have proper training for teachers to train our students so that we can produce the best brains in our country.

I heard that Goroka is introducing general courses, like those that are taught at the University of Technology and the University of Papua New Guinea. That is why I really want the Minister to do away with all this general courses and specialise only on teaching at the University of Goroka so that we have best teachers to teach our students in our country.

When we talk about quality, we must have quality teachers' college too, not only the University of Goroka but other teachers' colleges too. Then we are going to produce quality students in our country and they are going to come and look after us in the future.

Right now we are playing up with the country by playing up with the education and I really want to ask the Minister for Higher Education, can you do away with the general courses in the University of Goroka and specialise only on teacher training?

Mr DON POLYE – I think in the course of answering the question, I did say that there is a team that I have formed called the University Vice Chancellors Committee and I have charged them to look at the courses taught in UOG as well as other universities to see how we can rationalize. That means that if we must tell UOG to cut down or abolish the other programs and focus on teachers training only, we will do that. There are strong reasons to do that and I have already given the assurance and by the next 3-5 years', you will see that UOG is trimmed, right-sized, corrected and a quality institution, giving quality teachers to Papua New Guinea.

Yes, I agree, but I will do it strategically and properly through the Committee that was established. Thank you.

Mr STEVEN PIM – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker, for recognizing the people of Dei. Since I was elected I have not said anything in the Parliament, my people might think that

I am mute, but I was trying to learn from the senior and experienced statesman in this Parliament. I have observed and now I feel like I want to let out some air.

(Members laughter)

Mr STEVEN PIM – First of all, thank you, Prime Minister. You are a good man, all of us have appointed you so you must recognize us too. I thank our party leaders and our governors of the country. I am thankful that we have some powerful governors and we the members appreciate the inputs that you have made to our country. I thank my party leader, Honourable Peter O'Neill, you are a good man, and you have built a lot of infrastructure. There has been both good and bad but he did his part during his term.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I will allow you to ask your question to which Minister you want to ask.

Appointment of NAC Managing Director

Mr STEVEN PIM –Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister can take note.

This is in regards to the National Airport Corporation. It is a very important entity and in the recent past there was a lot of politics in terms of fighting for the managing director's position.

I understand after Joseph Kintau, there was another Managing Director and after that Managing Director, Rex Kiponge was the Managing Director and he performed exceptionally well but he did not meet some of the criteria. He did not work with the Minister, so the Minister brought in some legislations and the Minister then rightfully took control over the organization, I assume.

09/06

My questions specifically relate to the critical issues of safety, security and compliance. With that I make reference to a recent *Post-Courier* article dated Friday 10th March 2023, and I quote, 'National Airport Corporation Managing Director Acting position illegally extended'. The article reported that the National Airport Corporation Board had met on 3rd March 2023 and illegally extended the Acting Managing Director's term for another three months. And I

believe it was without the consultation of the NEC and contrary to the *Civil Aviation Act*, which we passed in December.

My four questions to the Minister are as follows:

(1) Does the board's action make the acting managing director's appointment illegal and therefore create a legal vacuum in the managing director's position and if so, does this violates Aviation Security and the Security by the Airport Corporation not to mention violates our International Aviation Treaty and Obligations?

(2) Can the Minister inform this House whether or not the Acting Managing Director's term has been lawfully extended by NEC for a further three months as required by law under the *Civil Aviation Act*?

(3) If so, can the Minister inform this House if the Acting Managing Director has qualified and met the mandatory prerequisites listed under *Section 147 (a) (f) Subsection (4)* of the *Civil Aviation Act*, which the Acting Managing Director must certify before appointed for a further three-month period, one of which is the fit and proper person certification by CASA amongst others?

(4) Can the Minister inform this House when will the substantive position for Managing Director of National Airport Corporation be formally advertised so that a suitable candidate can be finally appointed to the position to help restore public confidence and stability at the National Airport Corporation?

Because it oversees a lot of multimillion-kina projects in terms of airport developments and related infrastructures.

Thank you.

Mr WALTER SCHNAUBELT – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member for his series of questions in relation to NAC. I will do my utmost best to answer these questions. But if he wishes to have specific information, please forward a written request through my office and I am happy to respond to it on the Floor of Parliament.

In relation to NAC Board, as you know the Marape-Rosso Government has made amendments to the *Civil Aviation Safety Authority Act* in December last year. In which it gives the minister the initial authority to respond to adverse situations like the one we experienced in NAC where you have an acting managing director not following the rules and requirements provided by CASA and the constitution of NAC.

So, we had some issues in relation to that which gave rise to the amendment to the *Civil Aviation Safety Authority Act* and allows the minister to intervene and correct whatever needs to be corrected with the managing director.

In relation to that particular amendment and the processes; at the first instances, the minister under the *Act* and the amendment is able to install an acting managing director for NAC. And same principle applies to New Sky Limited as well which comes under the same arrangement.

If there is an extension required, then it has to go to NEC which we are in the process now to have that facilitated through NEC. So, I have not made a decision as yet and likewise to NEC on the extension.

But in relation to the NAC Board, I am making a decision on the extension and I want to clarify here that the board only has the power to recommend to the minister and its up to minister and NEC to make that final determination. And really not different to any other statutory body where the board makes the recommendation for the minister responsible to take it up with NEC to make that final determination.

So, we are in that process now going through and I want to assure the Member that we are acting on it and the recommendations from the NAC Board has been given to the Minister.

10/06

I have looked at the recommendations itself and I have done my own review on what needs to be done in the best interest of NAC. I am moving in that space and in due course, you will be made aware of the final decision.

So, at this stage and point in time, the current Acting Managing Director, Mr Joseph Tupuri will continue until NAC makes that final determination. So, right now, there's a process I need to adhere to, I have to go through PSC to get the final endorsement and from there I go to NEC for the final approval. So, we are in this stage at the moment.

So, in relation to the NAC board having the authority to make extension not entirely, it's only a recommendation to the Minister, to the shareholder and then I'll facilitate from there on in the best interest of NAC going forward.

In relation to the current Acting Managing Director, Mr Joseph Tupuri meeting all the requirements, yes, he has met all requirements, he's a fit and proper person. There's no argument on that and that has been recognized by or endorsed by CASA independently from my input or any intervention from my part. This side has no question mark to it.

Unfortunately, it's really sad that we have a lot of politics within NAC and therefore we are seeing all this negativity and the challenges with the senior management, with the Minister, and it's happening before the public space which is not good.

So, hopefully going forward, the Minister can impose his authority in terms of what needs to be done in the best interest of NAC and the travelling public, making sure safety and security is not compromised in anyway.

In relation to a permanent appointment to the position of managing director, we going through the process again, at this stage, we have to continue with an extension of acting with specific instructions for the Acting Managing Director to carry out before a final determination is made. The part of the process for the acting extension will have to take place because we need to advertise.

And as part of the process for advertising, there firstly needs to be first a vacancy on the position of the managing director. So, we need to terminate the former Managing Director, Mr Rex Kiponge to create this vacancy. Once the vacancy is created, we can advertise and then ask for expression of interest to recruit the best person for this job.

The Marape-Rosso Government, wants the best person for the job. We have no time for politics, we have no time for continuing interjection and interference with the government's policy of the day.

We have a clear mandate and focus to make sure that we deliver safety and security at the highest level for our travelling public. And that is not going to be compromised by any managing director going in there trying to take control and make sure their interest continues while the Government can't do much.

So, we have fixed everything and are moving forward in that space. Unfortunately, we are not tracking as fast as expected. But that is the process that we need to follow so that's no shortcuts or fraud and we follow due process. When we reach decision making. we will get the final approval.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, your time has lapsed.

Mr WALTER SCHNAUBELT – Mr Assistant Speaker, my apology, if the Member would like to ask me to answer any series of questions in writing, I'll be happy to respond to them specifically. But I hope that my response today has helped us all gain understanding on the situation with NAC.

Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker.

11/02

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

Media Development Policy

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – Mr Assistant Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity again. I also want to thank the Member for Kokopo for those series of very important and good questions that need good answers, because this is what our people want to know and hear.

(1) Clarify the intent and purposes of the Media Development Policy.

The intent of the draft National Media Development Policy is to establish an enabling framework to recognise and develop the media sector in Papua New Guinea to support our development agenda.

Current research and recent consultations have led us to the consolidation of four main issues within the Media sector:

- Concerns on quality of journalism.

By concerns, we observed the decline of quality investigative journalism, the impact of substandard reporting on the development agenda, and the concerns on conduct, ethics, and accountability of journalists.

- Protection of journalists.

My Ministry through the Department of ICT is currently collating both quantitative and qualitative data to verify the concerns on safety of journalists. We recognise, at the moment, that there is a lack of protection mechanisms for journalists.

- Coordination of government information.

My Ministry has for the last three years been looking at options on how to reorganise state-owned media outlets so that we coordinate dissemination of government information better. We recognise that as a government we are lacking coordination in government information.

- Exclusion of SMEs.

The Ministry has identified that SMEs, particularly in the modern media space are not recognised as professional and not given appropriate support.

Based on these issues, the draft National Media Development Policy identifies four main objectives:

- Facilitate and coordinate access to information for citizens and ensuring the media provides accurate, impartial, and balanced reporting on issues of public interest, including those affecting marginalised or under-represented groups.

- Encourage media diversity and support the representation of local and regional voices in media content and ownership.

- Ensure media organisations adhere to ethical and professional standards and promote responsible journalism that respect local customs and cultures.

- Promote civic engagement and participation in media issues, including through partnerships between media organisations, civil society groups and government agencies.

By promoting access to information, media diversity, and responsible journalism, the policy aims to support the development of a more informed, engaged, and empowered citizenry in Papua New Guinea.

(2) How will the new policy help protect and promote media freedom and enhance freedom of speech?

Early this year, we released draft version 1 followed by a version 2 of the National Media Development Policy. In both versions of the draft policy, we proposed for the re-establishment of the PNG Media Council as an independent arm to represent and maintain standards within the media professions.

The ministry maintains the view that the PNG Media Council through its self-governing model is not doing enough to grow the profession and hold journalists accountable.

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Through the Ministry's proposal, the PNG Media Council would be empowered, hold mainstream media outlets accountable and establish protection mechanism for journalists.

I want to inform Members of Parliament that we have had a consultation workshop and as a result, my department is working on identifying a model where we can find common grounds with all stakeholders.

(3) Does the new policy seek to regulate social media space; *Meta, WhatsApp*, et cetera?

I want to remind all that this policy is not about regulating but more on building capacity and recognition within the media profession.

The department is reviewing whether to include provisions for oversight on social media platforms and we will inform in version 3 of the draft policy.

(4) Current Status of Policy.

Mr Assistant Speaker, my department will be publishing a consultation report this week. Following this, the consultation itself is leading us to undertake a series of nationwide survey to better define our media landscape and ascertain data necessary to consolidate issues highlighted in the recent consultation workshop.

My department is expected to be releasing version four (4) of the draft policy towards the end of April. This version four will be subject to further feedback. I expect to take it to Cabinet as early as May and should legislation be proposed; we should also start drafting process in May.

This review is just like all the other reviews undertaken by this Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Honourable James Marape, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable John Rosso.

This country will be reaching 50 years and no one has touched the media space but this Government is doing it now, and I want to thank all Members of Parliament in doing this.

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

Chimbu Polytech

Mr DON POLYE – Mr Assistant Speaker, I ask leave of the Chair to respond to previous questions asked by the Member for Gumine on the Gumine or Chimbu Polytech.

Leave granted.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I will be brief but I have a written response in detail addressing the issues on the Chimbu Polytech that is established in the Gumine District. I delivered the letter with the response in detail and I would like to address those questions in brief because the questions were asked publicly on the Floor of Parliament.

The procedure is good, it is operated between the departments of Education and Higher Education. Some funds were allocated to the Education Department whilst some funds were parked in the Higher Education Department.

There was around K23 million allocated to Education Department and my colleague Minister will address that with the Member. There is K20 million in the Higher Education Department that is still there and about K600 000 of that was spent on technical expenditure and K19 million is still there.

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One major contract has been awarded by the Cabinet and six to seven others were awarded by the District Procurement Commission, through the authority of the National Procurement Commission. I have given details to the Honourable Member but the work was put on hold because of the elections. Now I have instructed my department to work with the Education Department to administer and implement the program. I would like to ask the Member to work with us in implementing it.

The total money allocated by Marape-Rosso Government was K43 million, and of that, only K600 000 was spent from the money allocated to the Department of Higher Education. In regards to the K23 million in the National Education Department, the information I have is, that money is in the trust account and it will be expended. I urge the Honourable Member, on behalf of the people of Chimbu, to communicate with the Minister for Education.

So, the project is on foot; I have instructed them to implement the program. We will work with this district and the District Procurement Commission to administer. I have given the details to him to follow through, and I urge him to work with me.

Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I suspend Parliament for lunch.

Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

14/06

**TREATY DOCUMENT – PAPUA NEW GUINEA – REPUBLIC OF PALAU –
AGREEMENT RELATING TO AIR SERVICES – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr WALTER SCHNAUBELT (Namatanai – Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation) – Mr Assistant Speaker, pursuant to statute, I present the following treaty document:

Treaty Document – Independent State of Papua New Guinea – Republic of Palau – Agreement relating to Air Services

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

Leave granted.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the document relates to the agreement between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Government of the Republic of Palau relating to air services.

I would like to make this ministerial statement on behalf of the PNG Transport Sector to demonstrate the Marape-Rosso Government's Connect PNG Policy Agenda for the three modes of transportations; land, sea and air, in providing that link between our domestic transport connectivity with the North Pacific Aviation Regional Connectivity.

Palau is a tiny Micronesian Atoll State located approximately 2,338 kilometres to the north-west of Port Moresby in the Northern Pacific Ocean and traveling there by air would take about three hours and 45 minutes.

Papua New Guinea has yet to develop bilateral relations with Palau, although some initial discussions were held in 2018, when officials of our two countries met to commence discussions that progressed in 2019 and in 2020, only to be caught in the inevitable effects of Covid-19 and its devastating impacts which severed further plans of bringing the proposal to full realization.

Mr Assistant Speaker, although the experiences of Covid-19 were devastating, its aftermath brought with it renewed hope for countries around the world including Palau, and in this case, the commencement of Air Niugini's scheduled services connecting Palau with Brisbane through Port Moresby is a move in the right direction not only for Palau but also for PNG in terms of promoting trade, commerce and tourism.

In mid last year 2022, the Australian Government through its Aid Program encompassing the Pacific Island region embarked on programs targeted at addressing development gaps within this geographical sites and flagged reliable air connectivity as a plight of the people of Palau, which ultimately required priority towards address.

Thus, through the Australian Aid Program, a procurement process through public tender was facilitated calling for bids from airlines domiciled within the Pacific region.

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The tender was seeking airlines with capacity and good safety record to provide the required air connectivity for the people of Palau. Air Niugini as PNG's designated international airline placed its bid and emerged as a successful winner of this tender process.

Mr Assistant Speaker, specifically, the flight routes that Air Niugini was awarded the contract to service are from Port Moresby to Kororo, Palau; Port Moresby to Brisbane, and

vice versa. And these routes shall be subsidized by the Australian Government's Aid Program. These routes shall provide more air connectivity for the people of Palau to Brisbane via Port Moresby and with connections to further destinations within the region and beyond.

In October 2022, the Department of Transport was informed by Air Niugini about its success under the connectivity tender facilitated by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and for scheduled flights to be performed connecting this specific route.

Mr Assistant Speaker, therefore, to ensure compliance with mandatory bilateral air services requirements, officials of PNG and Palau convened in Manila on the 2nd of February 2023, and negotiated the PNG-Palau proposed bilateral air service agreement text, ultimately reaching mutual agreement. The agreement text was then initiated by respective heads of our two countries after the conclusion of the negotiations.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the initial text signifies its acceptance as the agreed framework connecting the two countries towards the provision of scheduled air services and is fit to proceed through respective national constitutional requirements for enactment as a bilateral treaty instrument.

Mr Assistant Speaker, to comply with PNG's constitutional requirements, an NEC submission was finalized and presented by me as a sponsor seeking;

- (a) acceptance of the initial text of the PNG-Palau Bilateral Air Service Agreement,
- (b) approval for me to sign the instrument as the duly mandated minister,
- (c) approval for me to present the signed instrument in Parliament for ratification in accordance with *Section 117(3) of the Constitution* and
- (d) for the Minister for Foreign Affairs to exchange PNG's instruments of ratification after all constitutional requirements have been met.

Once Cabinet approval is sought, I will have the honour to counter sign the PNG-Palau Bilateral Air Service Agreement alongside my counterpart minister in Palau.

Mr Assistant Speaker, pending the completion of the national and statutory requirements necessary to formalize this agreement, it was agreed that the initial bilateral air service agreement shall have provisional effect from the date of its initialling, that's 2nd February 2023 until it comes into force subject to Article 21 of the agreement.

Mr Assistant Speaker, Article 21 of the Agreement specifies that the agreement shall enter into force when the parties have notified each other in writing that their respective requirements for the entry into force of this agreement have been satisfied. Therefore, once

PNG and Palau notify each other in writing that the respective requirements for entry into force of this agreement have been met, the agreement shall enter into force.

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Mr Assistant Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor to deliver this ministerial statement as the Minister responsible for Transport and Civil Aviation. I now commend this ministerial statement relating to the establishment of the PNG-Palau Bilateral Air Service Agreement to this honourable House.

Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Prime Minister) – I move that Parliament take note of this statement by the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, and I would also like to make few comments in support of it.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I would like to appreciate the leadership of the Minister when he assumed the role as the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation. The sector was in disarray but he managed to bring to the table a strong view to reorganize it.

We are not here to please people or to do favours for them. The work we do must be for the greater good of all. The Minister was trying to raise the civil aviation sector that was in disarray. He brought into picture a strong arm, mind and will to resolve and make this sector work. He is slowly and surely cleaning up the place and I rise to commend his leadership in this sector.

And speaking on the PNG-Palau Bilateral Air Service Agreement that was signed and presented by the Minister in Parliament for the benefit of our understanding and appreciation, Palau may seem like a small country, but let me impress on all of us that it is an important country.

Palau is located between the Philippines, Japan, PNG, Australia, Micronesia and other Pacific island countries. There is a connectivity that needs to be made with Palau. Air Niugini on its own, wouldn't be able to make that connectivity. I just want to place on record the appreciation for the Australian Government support. They need that connectivity to be made. Airlines in the region bided for this service but our national airline, Air Niugini was successful.

It may seem like a small connection into a small nation in the Pacific, but there is huge potential for PNG in this route to benefit from tourism and travellers' spin-offs. For instance, as the route of uplifting travellers into Palau.

Palau and the Micronesia is an alternate tourism spot in our part of the world. The connections from Australia and PNG into Palau, and hopefully down the line, will look at connecting a little bit north-west from Palau into Philippines, as a request I received from the President of Palau, who happens to be a good friend of mine. There is a possibility and connectivity into Philippines because there is a lot of travel from Palau and the north-west Pacific into Philippines, onward to China and Japan.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I just want to give comfort to this House, that this is not a wasted endeavour. To maintain connectivity to Micronesia and Pacific family of nations is important. They all look upon PNG as a big brother nation. Micronesia is an important part of our region. We are connected by land, air and as well by the resources in the sea. The combined Micronesian nations territory and the western Pacific Melanesian territory has close to 60 per cent of the world's tuna supply.

Making connectivity and maintaining support with the Micronesians enables our nation and this small nation partnership at all levels. This may seem like a small gesture but it is very important serving these Micronesia nations by linking and bringing them closer

17/06

I just want to also inform under the Minister's watch that New-sky Pacific is an important subsidiary company under the watch of the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation that is now earning revenue as a result of us controlling Air traffic. The flight that passes over us, Western Pacific and the Northwest Pacific especially the Micronesian countries. Through New-sky, we are able to manage the skies of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and of the Micronesian nations. We want to extend our foot prints so that we can assist these small island nations in their air space.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I was privileged to be part of the people at the flight control at Jackson's when we were dispatching travelers who were inbound or going out after APEC in 2018. And how well our young Papua New Guineans serves. It was about 20 of them, professional young Papua New Guineans all under 30. They were able to shepherd in the flights of the World leaders. You know all world leaders attended but they were able to dispatch them professionally and there were moments up in the sky when they were finally exiting PNG boundaries' airspace and the flights were able to connect back to our flight control and bid Papua New Guinea farewell, that we had handled them very well. I got goose bumps to see that our own flight controllers were competent in shepherding in not ordinary flights but leaders of world's powerful economies.

How they were able to dispatch Russia, USA, and China flights, and we are not that bad in our country. Yes, we have our challenges but as a bigger nation in the Pacific, placed strategically in the middle of Pacific and Asia, you go east, west, north and south but you can't ignore the big face of Papua New Guinea.

This sort of work done by the Minister and his team to bid for us to be the flight carrier into Palau but more importantly interface with Palau people, in my view has many potentials that connectivity to smaller Pacific Island nations means well for us.

PNG will also stand to benefit from the flight flow that we are connecting from Australia, PNG and Palau.

Let me also inform this House that we are looking at direct flights, from PNG to China and also taking in the massive inbound tourists of China who want to fly into PNG to make transition into deep Pacific. Pacific in Melanesia, Pacific in Polynesia and Micronesia. These are part of the connectivity that we are putting in place and the Minister unbeknownst to all of us is really hard at work taking charge of this important sector to ensure that our transport and especially our airline sector in this instance is being served well.

I want to commend the Minister, small as it may be in Palau but a big step in ensuring that PNG service providers or whether its airline service or associate airline support services are being able to serve the regions closest to us as we mobilize support in the family of nations in the Pacific.

Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER—Honourable Deputy Opposition leader.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA (Kiriwina-Goodenough) – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. I would like to also support this paper and the Minister, and the Prime Minister for their contribution to the paper that has now been presented on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr Assistant Speaker, first of all I want to commend the Minister. Yesterday, he presented a very important paper and a very encouraging paper to this House and that is the CASA paper. It shows that Papua New Guinea has developed itself in the airline industry and the safety standards of Air Niugini. The bureaucrats who are in there are being very watchful and it shows the great contribution this management of CASA has done in the service of our industry. Therefore, the CASA must be given thumbs up.

The report that you have presented yesterday has brought joy and comfort to us, the leaders and the travelling public.

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This document today is a testament of what you have presented yesterday. Without CASA doing the right thing in your report yesterday, I don't think the Australian Government would have given us the contract. Now because CASA has done the right thing today which you have presented another positive report of Australia recognising Papua New Guinea, we are their children because at one stage, Australia cared for us.

But the bigger picture here is that Australia must consider recognising the whole of the Pacific. And now we have seen their true wisdom through AusAID in awarding the contract to service Palau. I was fortunate enough to be on the flight from Brisbane to Port Moresby on Tuesday and they announced that flight to Jacksons Airport, Port Moresby and onto Palau. And I was amazed with the announcement that it was a connection flight from Port Moresby to Palau. And today you have confirmed by presenting this report and its very encouraging news.

The Prime Minister mentioned also that it opens up new ventures into Palau and we know that Palau is a small Atoll Island with some thousand people living on that Island.

The President of Palau is also a very strong vocal citizen of the Pacific when it comes to climate change issues. I have attended certain meetings with him when I was in my capacity as the minister in the past. I heard him debate strongly about the Pacific and we as the bigger brother of the Pacific must also recognise our small brothers in the Pacific Regions.

Our planes fly to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji and in Palau it's a population of 18 000 people, therefore we must take care of them as well. Why I say this is because PNG has surplus food especially vegetables in the highlands and now we open up a route that can take our products there.

In Palau, tourism industry is really big compared to PNG and the flights into Palau is mainly tourists flying in and out. Therefore, its an opportunity for us to venture into the food markets. Some of the things that we can also learn as Papua New Guineans is, what are some of the things small nations are performing correctly in terms of tourism that we can also adapt into our country.

With that I want to thank the Government of Australia for this successful bid that we have won where the planes are now servicing the route. I also want to thank the presence of Australia not only in PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji but have reached out further to Palau.

I also want to thank our government for opening this route from Australia to Palau. Which gives us the courage and comfort that the next bid that comes on, PNG can put its hands up for

it because CASA has done a good job with the report yesterday and we have won this bid today, therefore any future bid we can be successful.

Thank you and congratulations Minister.

Mr LUTHER WENGE (Morobe) – Mr Assistant Speaker, I rise to thank the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation and to respect him and give him honor as to his leadership. Yesterday, I congratulated him and commended him for a job well done as a leader in making sure that people working in the administration of CASA comply with the rules nationally and internationally.

And the benefits that we gained as long as we comply with the rules and one of the benefits is to create confidence not only in PNG but in the international community. That in the operation of the aircraft in and outside of the country we are more capable of doing it because we have a record of safety.

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Mr Assistant Speaker, I said yesterday that the international community will trust us when we are strictly complying with the rules, trust us in the operations of the aircraft, trust us in the operation of airdrome and people who work in the airdrome, trust us in relation to the pilots who fly people to their respective destination in this world. That by virtues of that trust many more places of destination in the world will be opened up.

And today, I didn't know that you are going to present a Bilateral Treaty Agreement with the country of Palau and Papua New Guinea. In relation to the transportation between Palau by air to Brisbane and from Brisbane back to Papua New Guinea. That Treaty is signed between the nations of Papua New Guinea and Palau. And that is one of the confidences that we have gained from the people and the leadership of Palau.

And not just the two countries but the third country comes in, which is Australia. Which sets the confidence of our management of the rules as per mentioned and complying with the the CASA safety rules internally and externally. I commend you Minister.

Mr Assistant Speaker, we are constituted of people from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia and we are the indigenous people of Pacific. We lived here since time immemorial before the others have come to our region like Australia and New Zealand or even to some other parts in these three regional countries.

We are the indigenous people, we have lived here for too long. Our relationship extends far and we need to encourage the promotion of our relationship; promotion that we are

Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian. We belong to one region and one people. It should be promoted and what are the other better ways to do it, I think this is the way forward.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I commend the Honourable Prime Minister, James Marape and few of his predecessors, Honourable Mr Peter O'Neill, Sir Michael Thomas Somare and all other Prime Ministers, they have made sure that we the Pacific are united in our common cause. The common cause that we know better, our relationship and the things that hold us together as a region; Micronesia, Polynesia or Melanesia.

Those who have come to join us the Caucasoid Australians and New Zealanders, other genetical race that have come to join us, the Mongoloids, but we are the original ones in the Pacific and we must tell them that we belong here and they must become part of us. One way to do is to bring ourselves to each other by boat and by plane.

I want to commend the Government, the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister and the others. This a very good bilateral treaty that has been entered into. I agree with the Opposition spokesman. That we are Pacific. I went to get an admission in a New Zealand Bar, I saw the market full of taro, the breadfruit leaves and fruits, aibika and tapioca, all brought in from the Pacific to New Zealand. I saw it and I said, oh that's lovely.

20/06

As the Opposition representative said, by virtue of the operation of the plane we can transport our goods and feed all of the Pacific and those who have come from faraway to live in the Pacific. We have taught them to eat our food and be accustomed to it. They will help us to eat the food. We must promote our food that is produced in Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia.

I agree with the spokesperson from the Opposition that plenty of food have been produced in the Highlands; different types of vegetables that have been produced and we need to transport them by air because it's going to take a long time via sea transport. Because of the continued flights during the week, we can be able to transport our food over there. Not just the food, Mr Assistant Speaker, we can transport many other things.

The Palauans don't know much about Papua New Guinea and what we produce here and by virtue of the operations of that flight, they can come here and see what we produce here. For instance, the Indonesians didn't know about our cheesepop or that we produce the SNAX biscuits. Of course when they were introduced to our SNAX biscuits it has become a very delicious and favorites biscuit for them in Indonesia.

Mr Assistant Speaker, things like this can happen if we produce something that is good for their consumption, they will come here. And also we are Pacific, we are Polynesians, we are Melanesians, we are Micronesian. Papua New Guinea has a lot of land here, plenty of land in Morobe Province and Nadzab is going to become an international airport. I said yesterday and I would like to thank the Government for making sure that it eventuates in the future very shortly.

Mr Assistant Speaker, we must give them land and make this Papua New Guinea colorful, not just full of Melanesian people, but Micronesian and Polynesian mix them all up so that they look different and nice. So we should give them land here so they can come and make business here.

Secondly, it makes it easier for the tourists, when we have tourists coming from the international community into Papua New Guinea. When they come to realize that there is such as route between these two countries they will want to travel. They can come transit here and spend some of their money here and then fly direct to Palau from here or to Australia.

Mr Prime Minister, with the greatest respect, we don't stop there, we can fly direct to Vanuatu, Kiribati and then to Tahiti. They have been influenced by the French people, but the Polynesians, Melanesians we are part of the Pacific Islands so flights must not only stop in Palau but must be extended to other Pacific nations so the world will know that we are Pacific and we are united and solid. And when you come to Papua New Guinea, you can explore other countries where Papua New Guinean planes can take you. This is a very important bilateral treaty that we're going to sign and now I feel excited for myself because I know that I can take a Morobe delegation to Palau and maybe leave them there and come back or maybe take some from Palau and come and leave them here.

But this flight will make us united, as the Prime Minister said and I quite agree we have to help our brothers. This flight will enable us to visit Palau and other parts of the Pacific and also come to know them very well. Mr Prime Minister I will support this treaty without a doubt. Mr Minister, I will support this treaty to be ratified by the Parliament Thank you.

21/06

Debate (on motion by **Mr Jelta Wong**) adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Jelta Wong**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 2.50 p.m.