

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 24 March 2023

DRAFT HANSARD

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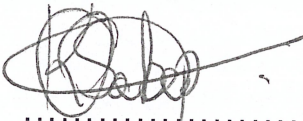
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KENNETH SEBEPMIN

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 24 March 2023

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Koni Iguan**) took the Chair at 10 a.m., and invited the Minister for Provincial and Local-Level Government Affairs and Member for Kikori, **Honourable Soroi Eoe**, to say Prayers.

‘Thank you Father God, we acknowledge your lordship. We thank you because you are our creator God. Today we want to come before you once again seeking your wisdom and your strength to enable us to make decisions of the day. Thank you for this beautiful country you have given us of which we represent those who are listening up on the mountains to the valleys, the coastlines and on the islands. We want to thank you for this people whom we serve or we agreed when we were elected to serve.

Lord God, thank you for being with us in the last two weeks of the Parliament and every decision we have made, the laws we have passed, the statements we have made, help us Lord God to translate to influence the betterment of our people throughout Papua New Guinea. Thank you for bringing us back again this morning. Lord God, we commit the Chair of the Parliament, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and all the leaders as we progress today for today’s agenda. We want to invite you Oh God to be with us through your Holy Spirit to give us the knowledge and wisdom to make important and appropriate decisions. Once again, Lord God, I commit the House and the day into your hands in Christ Jesus’ name I pray and ask. Amen.’

RULING ON DISALLOWED QUESTIONS – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Honourable members, I wish to make a statement regarding the disallowed questions raised by the Member for Wau-Waria, Honourable Marsh Narawec, during Question Time yesterday; Thursday, 23 March 2023.

The questions asked were:

(1) Is the Electoral Commission and NID working together to ensure voting is done by using our NID in 2027?

(2) Can the Prime Minister make a commitment to the House and to the people of this country, that the Electoral Commission will test the system and pilot one of the by-elections to ensure citizens of that electorate exercise the principal of one person-one vote?

Honourable members, *Standing Order* 141(d)(ii) states that; a question shall not refer to proceedings in Committee not reported to the Parliament.

The Special Parliamentary Committee on 2022 General Elections, was established on 2 September 2022, which specifies consideration to look into the 2022 General Elections. The committee had conducted inquiries pursuant to its terms of reference and a report is yet to be presented.

A matter that is placed on the Notice Paper is a matter before Parliament and *Standing Order* 141(e) states that; a question shall not anticipate discussion on an Order of the Day or other matter.

02/08

In general, the Chair must allow some leniency on the question before the House to allow the matters of public interest to be debated. To comply strictly with the requirement of the *Standing Order*, there will be very little questions that can be allowed for a minister to answer.

Honourable Members, I now make a ruling that the question asked by the Member for Wau-Waria will not prejudice the outcome of the proceedings of the Special Parliamentary Committee on 2022 National General Elections, as the question relates to a future by-election and not the 2022 National General Elections.

It is also a matter of public interest that the minister responsible for elections should be allowed to answer for his people. Therefore, I will allow the Member for Wau-Waria to ask his questions.

QUESTIONS

Fund Police Force to Investigate Drug Cartels

Mr SAM BASIL JUNIOR – Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Internal Security, and the Minister for Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister can take note, given the seriousness of this issue.

Mr Deputy Speaker, yesterday Papua New Guineans learnt of a clandestine operation by the Australian Federal Police then busted an aircraft carrying nearly \$US15 million dollars or K35 million worth of dangerous illicit drugs or methamphetamine.

Like many Papua New Guineans, I was shocked to learn that the pickup location for these drugs was in Bulolo and since then a lot of social media commentary has been made about the operation and the proliferation of the dangerous drugs in our country.

I for one am deeply concerned that my district of Bulolo was used as a drug distribution point and I have no doubt such illegal activities are happening throughout our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for the benefit of some of our members who may have missed the news yesterday, let me recap some key points we have learnt from the media and the police reports relevant to public importance.

On Tuesday, this week, a black flight piloted by two Australian men originating from North Queensland, Australia, flew a twin-engine light aircraft to a known airstrip in Bulolo district and picked up nearly 52 kilograms of methamphetamine. This airstrip is a privately-owned airstrip. If you want to land or go to the private airstrip, you have to ask the owner's permission. For example, if you want to refuel you have to ask what quantity is available before you file a flight manifest.

A black flight simply means an aircraft that logs false flight plans and deliberately flies at undetectable altitudes.

While in Bulolo refuelling, units with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary especially the National Crime Unit were aware of the black flight and were monitoring the pick up of these dangerous drugs. Upon landing back in Australia, the Australian Police intercepted the aircraft and arrested the offenders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I ask you to get to your question as this is question time.

Mr SAM BASIL JUNIOR – Mr Deputy Speaker, the question is just around the corner.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr SAM BASIL JUNIOR – Firstly, let me commend the Australian Federal Police and our Police for working in collaboration on the investigation, which goes to show that there is some good happening in our country.

05/08

Secondly, I commend the Police for showing professionalism, especially on this matter. At any point, the risk of a tip-off could have occurred at our end jeopardizing the operation. But this investigation highlights broader issues that need greater attention by the Government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I understand the investigation is ongoing and might cause the Minister to be limited to his response but my questions are as follows;

(1) PNG is now becoming a transit point and point of origin for cartels to smuggle illicit drugs. Are our law enforcement agencies from our transnational crime units to our prosecutors being adequately supported to combat these illegal activities?

(2) Given that this is the second known black flight busted with large quantities of drugs in the last three years, have our police and civil aviation authorities ramped up efforts to protect our borders and airstrips from criminals?

(3) These men obviously had connections, associates, and resources on the ground in Bulolo and possibly in Lae and Port Moresby who helped them to arrange for fuel and the drugs to be ready onsite. Are the police actively investigating these individuals and can we be assured that arrests and prosecutions will be made?

My good brothers from Wau-Waria and Menyamya please take note as we are in the same area.

(4) As with the nature of these high-level drug syndicates, can our citizens be assured that those well-connected individuals through businesses or politics won't be given special treatment if found to be involved in this activity?

(5) And finally, can the Minister give the undertaking to ensure the local Police in Bulolo are given adequate resources to monitor our district in the event that drug syndicates are using my district to cover their schemes bringing the good name of Bulolo into question?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr PETER TSIAMALILI JUNIOR – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the Member for Bulolo for asking these questions. This issue affects our brothers over in Wau and the greater Papua New Guinea.

Firstly, I would like to thank the police personnel who work under Transnational Crime.

This drug syndicate is bringing illicit drugs; methamphetamine and cocaine into the country. In the past, these drugs were being brought into our country but there were investigations that identified the persons of interest that were bringing them. Now, there is an element of these drugs being manufactured in the country and we are working on tracing the localities.

The flight that was busted yesterday came in from New South Wales to Bulolo, which is in the jurisdiction of the Australian Federal Police and the Transnational desk of Papua New Guinea Royal Constabulary and we are also working with the local leaders.

Our Transnational Team was informed by the AFP about this movement in November 2002, and we have been monitoring it and investigating possible associates here in the country. So, there have been investigations going on but we have not exposed any information on the matter until this opportunity arose and the suspects were in the procession of the drugs.

06/08

When these illicit drugs were confiscated, there was a wide media coverage from both Australia and PNG media outlets. While the five Australians were arrested following the drug bust and due to the wide media coverage, their counterparts here in PNG were also arrested at Nadzab. And through information from our own intelligence information we are doing investigations and will do arrests were necessary.

I want to inform the country and probably send out a warning that if you or someone you know is doing this, please stop as we will not stop and make sure those caught will face the full force of the law. From our intelligence information we have identified our hotspot airstrips around the country and we are working closely with the Civil Aviation Authority and Customs, and are

closely monitoring our borders from Daru in Western Province to Vanimo in West Sepik as well as around Bougainville across to the Solomon Islands, as we have identified hotspot areas.

We have identified from our intel that the airstrip in Bulolo where the drug haul started is the same spot, where two years ago a young man was also busted for drug possession and the same young man is believed to be somewhat connected again in this. Our investigations are continuing and once they are completed and finalized I will be able to inform the Government and the people of this country.

As it is right now it is a sensitive issue and investigations are continuing as I speak. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government for taking a stand in passing a law on illegal drug smuggling last year. We now have enough strength to enforce and strongly penalize those involved.

I wish to assure the Member that we will support all areas where we feel there is a hotspot for drug smuggling. At the moment we have identified some hotspots and we are continuing our investigations. I wish to assure all Members that we need to collectively work together to address this issue now more than ever because these and other dangerous drugs are already in the country and it is high time we all work together to rid Papua New Guinea off these illicit drugs.

This call is also going out to all parents, please watch over your children and ensure they steer clear of any substance abuse.

Supplementary Questions

Intercept Drug Smuggling Activities

Mr CASMIRO AIA - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to commend the Minister for doing a good job in relation to the drug bust. I have a series of questions as this is not the first time that a major drug haul was intercepted with Papua New Guinea's involvement. This is the second time involving high profile illicit drugs.

Such activity is already on the radar of the intelligence community. The intelligence community already have some idea or information on such activity being planned and carried out. This is apparent from the way police were already in Bulolo to make their arrest.

(1) Why did the AFP and our police wait till the last minute to make arrests? Why do you have to wait until it is taking place on our shores instead of keeping them out of our borders?

07/08

Why do you have to wait until the crime is committed in Papua New Guinea instead of pushing the border, and the criminals out of our borders. I know you can say that you wait until you catch the man in action but by waiting, it also tarnishes the good name of Papua New Guinea. So, in all fairness, push the criminals and their agendas as much as possible out of our borders. So, my question is, why do we have to wait? Number 2 question, since it is the second crime of such a nature, good minister, does your department have any capacity in the drug enforcement unit? Because the way I see it, there are is minimal or no assistance from your department to the Drug Enforcement Unit. We need to focus our attention within our departments to our smaller units or sections. This is the reason why our units or sections are unable to carry out their duties in combatting crimes. Mr Internal Security Minister, from this day on let's not have another transaction in Papua New Guinea soil. So, my question is, is there enough attention focused on drug enforcement? Number 3, under the extradition process, can we prosecute offenders here instead of sending them back? We should prosecute them here whether they are black or white. The offence is committed here, they must be prosecuted under the laws of PNG and not extradited to another country where the crime was not committed there. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER TSIAMALILI JUNIOR – Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the good member for his questions. He has asked three big questions on why we allowed the transaction to take place and why the crime that was committed here has been sent back to Australia for committal. Good members and leaders, we allowed for a collaboration between the AFP and RPNGC because the offenders are not working one off, they are working in a gang and have the backing of a bigger group. So, whilst we attempt to address this immediately by arresting the frontline offenders, we have to be careful to make sure that we also find out the group behind the transactions. And that's why it is in the interest of both parties that we understand the collaboration of the AFP and RPNGC, the transporters from Australia came in and did the job and were apprehended by AFP. And those who did the job here in the country have also been apprehended under our laws. They have a bigger group supporting their activities that is why, as we speak today, good member, we arrested them in one day, it happened, down in Australia, it happened here, they were arrested. So, we are practicing and we are enforcing our law. Just because we haven't put it out quickly in the media does not mean we are not addressing this issue. Our team is addressing it

and we are aware of a bigger operation so we are cautious on how we manage this space so we become effective in addressing this issue.

08/08

Coming back to the issue of narcotics, there is a big vacuum within the narcotics bureau, our narcotics desk and our trans-national crime. I thank this government, that the years of neglect in the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary has come to an end. There is funding support from our development partners to improve our trans-national desk.

We will see a lot of intervention and I want to give comfort on part of our reforms. We have asked our development partners to support us with capacity. A specific area will be the appointment of a new director for our drug and narcotics desk.

As I have said in regards to the funding support, this government has put money into police and that will go towards enhancing the desk of the trans-national crime, in particular our narcotics space. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Connect-PNG Program – Prioritize Chimbu

Mr JAMES NOMANE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to ask questions to the Minister for Works and Highways.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would firstly like to commend the Marape-Rosso government for the Connect-PNG Program. We understand that without infrastructure, all our dreams and aspirations for development will merely be just a dream. With that commitment, also comes challenges.

And the good Minister for Works, to whom much was given, much was expected. I thank you for also presenting to the House and the people of Papua New Guinea your report to demonstrate transparency in how you have been spending the largest chunk of the development budget. Through the Chair, I would like to thank the Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is in regards to Chimbu, from which Chuave is a district. The Minister in his report, advised the House that phase one of the Connect-PNG Program from the northern to the southern corridor, that runs from Madang to Gembolg, to Kundiawa, to Gumine, to Salt-Nomane-Karamui and then to Gulf, will start after 2027.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this raises a concern for my myself, as a member of Chimbu because we need roads. In terms of the 22 provinces within the country, we have a very small internal

revenue of K5-K6 million per annum. We heavily depend on Waigani for our re-current budget and for our development within the province. This road is critical to our development agenda within the province.

There are two important reasons as to why I asked that the Minister for Works can advise the House and the people of Chimbu, and give us the reassurance that he will reconsider his prioritization of this north to south corridor, and ensure that Chimbu is captured from Gembolg through Salt-Nomane-Karamui, and then to Gulf. These are the reasons;

(1) In January, the Marape-Rosso Government went to Karamui in Chimbu, and announced the Karamui Special Economic Zone Project.

(2) In the name of equity, the most important highway in the country is the Highlands Highway. It is important for the House to take note, that this Highlands Highway is also called the Okuk Highway.

This was initiated by one of Chimbu's favourite son and a legend in PNG politics, the late Iambaky Okuk. In the name of equity –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I will interrupt and ask you to make your statement short.

Mr JAMES NOMANE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In the name of equity, he did not stop the Highlands Highway in Chimbu, but went all the way up to Tari-Gap and Enga. In the name of equity, through you Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Minister for Works and Highways give reassurance to the people of Chimbu that we will review the Southern corridor to ensure that Chimbu is captured for implementation.

09/08

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Chuave for his questions in relation to the roads starting from Gembogl to Sol, Karimui-Nomane linking with Gulf. This portion of the road is included in the program Connect PNG Proram. The program actually has three phases where funds have been allocated accordingly.

This road link is the shortcut route to Gulf through Gudiwa and Karamui. Starting from Karamui to Gulf we have found out that it's not included in the missing link plan. When Marape-

Rosso Government took office, they allocated some funds to construct these roads from Karamui to Kundiawa. Through the former member, the Dauulo road is also included and construction is ongoing up till now.

Therefore, I want to assure the members for Chuave and Karamui-Nomane that the Simbu Province the Minister for International Trade and Investment has declared that place a special economic zone also. With that, I want to assure the people from there that the Department of Works and Highway is currently realigning the road program to bring back the Phase 2 road program to be classified as special economic zone.

When the roads are constructed the Government's program will come into play at the same time. I want to assure the Member for Chuave regarding his concern for all the road linkages there that we are working on it now. The current Government is not just making commitments; it makes sure that the programs are done together with the plans for all the infrastructures. So the program on Connect PNG includes the road starting from Karamui to Gulf. These portions of the road will boost the socio-economic benefits.

Cocoa, a commodity crop that never grows in the Highlands Region, can now be grown in Karamui. The Government has considered Chimbu Province as important in terms of boosting the economy of the country with commodity crops.

Therefore, the Government has committed to construct proper road links and other important infrastructures commencing from Karamui, Sol-Nomane linking with Gulf Province. I assure the Member that we are working on it under the missing link program.

The Member's second question regarding the Highlands Highway particularly from Simbu Province to Hela Province, I have discussed this issue with ADB, and after three years when they complete the eastern part then they will move and extend the scope all the way to Kapiago.

The Highlands Highway doesn't end in Mount Hagen or Kapiamuga but it extends to Kapiago and all the way to Southern Highlands and Gulf provinces. We are working on it now and I have written to ADB and they have assured to extend the scope.

In relation to the Okuk Highway, particularly in Chimbu Province, I appeal and want to inform the House and all the leaders of Chimbu that this is always a critical section where when roads are being blocked and at times passengers would carry cargo from one end to the other end. Now this problem will be a thing of the past under the Marape-Rosso Government, I assure the Member that we are working on it to fix this problem. Thank you.

Whilst I have the Floor, I also want to assure the Deputy Speaker that your question in relation to Zuming Bridge, I have advised the contractor to install speed bumps to prevent vehicles from speeding through.

10/08

That is work in progress when I was in Lae. Therefore, this Government is not just talking, it is working and Connect PNG is working. With that, thank you so much.

Mr WILLIAM BANDO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving this time to my people from Koroba-Lake Kopiago. I have a series of questions for Minister for Mining and for which our good Prime Minister, Environment Minister and Minister for Health can take note. But before I do, because it is my first time to speak, I want to thank my people from Koroba-Lake Kopiago for giving me the opportunity to represent them in this House.

Before I ask the questions I want to give some background to these questions that I am asking in relation to Strickland River pollution caused by Porgera Mining. It is with a heavy heart that I bring to this Honourable House the decades of ignored destructions on environment, lives and livelihoods of my people of Strickland in the Lake Kopiago LLG for over 30 years since the Pogera Mining started operation.

Despite the effects these people did not receive any benefits from this mine up till today and we are talking about re-opening the mine but our people have been left behind all of these years.

I believe there are districts and provinces in this country with similar stories like my people of Lake-Kopiago; the Angabanga, the Fly, the Watut, the seas like the Tabar, Misima and Basamuk for that matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have overwhelming scientific evidence from reputable sources that confirm the existence of extreme environmental pollution and negative health impacts in my side of the country as a result of Porgera Mining. The studies of an Australian premier scientific institution called Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) who studied in 1996, 2007, and 2012 on the Porgera Strickland river system.

The 2006 and the 2009 reports from the Norwegian Pension Fund Global whose Ethics Council recommended the exclusion of the Canadian Barrick Gold in 2009 and the Chinese Zijin Mining Corporation in 2012. Each focus on severe environmental damage to the Strickland River

system and in some of the countries where these two companies operate as well. These two companies were the two last operators of the Porgera Mine until the 25th of August 2020 upon which the issuance of the new SML 11 and the ownership transferred to Kumul Minerals Holding Limited. However, they are all advanced into partnership and the legacy issue of mining and the tailings disposal remains and is never been discussed in all of these negotiations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the other exhaustive scientific information on food is gathered by the Constitutional Law and Reform Commission of 2007.

Report number six, review of the environmental and mining laws, relating to the management and disposal of tailings. These references were issued in the Somare government in 2007, in relation to the court appeal report of the 2007 on the Angabanga River sponsored by the Central Provincial Government. This is the same question that has been raised every now and then by the good Member for Kairuku, Honourable Peter Isoaimo, on this floor of Parliament.

11/08

I am also happy to acknowledge a letter by the former Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Honourable Wera Mori. He boldly admitted through that letter the existence of the extreme environmental pollutions and profound health issues on the Strickland basin.

In his letter to the Prime Minister dated 25th of February 2021, and I quote –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, since it is your first-time asking questions on this Floor of Parliament I have allowed enough time for you to give a background information. So, I advise you to ask the question now.

Environmental Pollution-Porgera

Mr WILLIAM BANDO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I'll be very brief.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, given the aforementioned independent reports and admittances by the former Minister, my questions are as follows;

(1) What is your department's position on the pollution of the Strickland river system and its effects on the lives and livelihoods of my people? I think it's similar to the people of Laigap in the Enga Province.

(2) Can you give assurance to my people that their plights will be considered or are been considered in the new Porgera negotiations?

(3) Would you agree with me, that the environmental liabilities of the old Porgera needs to be separated before going forward in the new Porgera with the citizens untainted; Kumul Mineral Holdings Limited.

(4) And finally, given the overwhelming body of evidence of extreme environmental, health and physical degradation on my people's habitat, what is your plan for the full compensation and if any; so, in what form, shape, and when?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Sir ANO PALA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Koroba-Lake Kopiago for the very detail questions on a very serious matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to also thank the Member for Koroba-Lake Kopiago for giving a copy of his questions before he asks the questions. So, I was able to have a brief discussion with the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. We both agree that this matter falls within the responsibility of Mining and Environment department. So, I want to point that out because, I have been guilty in answering some questions recently, that had more implications on environment than mining. But, I failed to acknowledge his side of the responsibility so I just wanted to emphasize that these questions perhaps are more about environment than it is mining's financial and business operations.

So, I will acknowledge that and allow the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change to say a few words if he needs to, otherwise to take note and refer it to his environmental scientists because this is a matter that requires more scientific attention.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the environmental laws or CEPA regulate, monitor and ensure the chemical contents of the tailings and other waste extreme from the mining and processing plants are neutralized or are reduced to a global acceptable limit of metal contents or are detoxified before these matters are released into the environment.

That is why, it is important that I should refer these questions.

12/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, for solid waste and tailings, the construction of tailings dams is very challenging and many mines have been permitted to use what is referred to as failing waste rock dams, whereby the over burdens or waste rocks are put in the river systems as additional solid materials and is chemically tested to ensure that they don't toxicify the environment.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will be referring these questions to my department to provide detailed analysis especially for consideration. The Kumul Minerals owns the mine under the leadership of the current Government to handle the commercial side of this concern.

Mr Deputy Speaker, environmental issues affect the commercial operations of the mine and we are concerned. The Member for Kairuku and other members have raised these issues. I explained to them on how we handle the disposal of wastes, which is not only affecting our environment but is also affecting our reputation at the global scene. We still have to do business with the rest of the world and our finances also depend on the international markets. As I mentioned before on how we handle the waste also affect our reputation and marketability on international scene. But at the same time, we have to protect and respect the sanctity of the licenses which we grant to mining companies. Therefore, somewhere there lays the responsibility of the government to provide a balance on the business side as well as to ensure that the environment is kept clean and the people don't unnecessarily suffer. But that is an environmental concern, therefore, I want to leave it to the minister responsible to address.

Before I sit down, I want to say that we are now in the process of finalising our negotiations with Porgera and I will be making a statement next on where we are. But the environmental issues have been sorted out and I will not dwell on it but allow the minister to respond. But the commercial side and the mining operations have been sorted out, especially the taxation issue relating to Barrick and we are now ready to move forward. These are very serious concerns and my heart goes out to the people who are affected by the environment.

I want to assure the Member that we will do whatever we can to ensure that the environment is kept protected and clean for the benefit of our people. But let me say this that on the mining, operations and commercial side we are ready to move forward. These matters are very serious so I will now refer them to the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change to handle. Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Minister for Housing, I believe you have a personal explanation.

Honourable Members, Question Time has lapsed.

13/08

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

Housing-Review Eviction Process

Dr KOBBY BOMAREO (Tewai-Siassi - Minister for Housing) – I ask leave of Parliament to respond to previous questions asked to me by Sir Puka Temu.

Leave granted.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is a detailed response to the questions by Honourable Sir Puka Temu, on the Floor of Parliament, dated 21 March 2023, on the eviction of the Aigri Family residing in a National Housing Commission property, Section 274, Lot 7 in Gerehu NCD.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the issue in particular is Section 247, Allotment 7 in Gerehu NCD, and Section 274 Allotment 7 as reported in the front page of the *Post-Courier* dated 21 March 2023.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to put on record that the *Post-Courier* had erred in its reporting on the status of the two properties.

Based on the National Housing Corporation held records the details of the property Section 247, Allotment 7 in Gerehu is as such; Tenant or purchaser, Guria Robert and Gee Henao and the scheme is rental purchase, Volume 30 Folio 7267, remarks; titled released on the 11 August 1989.

This is a settled property without any issue and the title was released to the Tenant who has purchased this property in 1989 and is a different property all together and not what the Post Courier had reported. The Post Courier must get its facts right or at least cross check with the National Housing Corporation before publishing such erroneous articles.

However, the correct property that the eviction took place is Section 274, Lot 7, again in Gerehu. The specific details of this property in question is as follows; the gazetted public purchaser Nelson John and Nelly Nelson. Former Tenant is Yasikin Akenang. The Tenant was paying K12 rental until 1999 deductions ceased. It was under a government give-away scheme. Title, Volume

80, Folio 141, gazetted 10 of 1995. Remarks; The title released to purchaser on the 21 December 2011.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the eviction was carried out by the joint purchaser Nelson John and Nelly Nelson whose names were published in the National Gazette No.G78 of 24 August 1995 on the Government Give Away Scheme, listing number 10 by the former management and Minister. The contract documents were prepared in 2007 and reprinted in 2010 and signed by the joint purchaser and the title was then transferred on the 21 December 2011.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my office and the National Housing Corporation management were not aware of the eviction exercise being carried against Mr Yasikin Akeanang and his family.

I have instructed the National Housing Corporation lawyers to intervene and to put a stop on this eviction despite a Court Order in place until all the facts are properly ascertained by a competent Court.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I also want to inform this Honourable Parliament that there was another eviction exercise in Jiwaka, as I mentioned on Tuesday. The eviction was carried out on 20 March 2023.

14/08

The property is under the National Housing Corporation; Section 02, house number 4 in Minj. To set the records straight this eviction exercise was not carried out by National Housing Corporation officials but by the locals themselves.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the perpetrator of this incident is Mr Simon Hans, the local counselor of South Waghi, with the support of the Minj Police Station Commander, and Mr Michael Kapak, the executive officer of the Governor of Jiwaka.

Mr Deputy Speaker, these people must be questioned by the local authorities as they do not have the mandate to carry out such eviction exercises on National Housing Corporation properties, and their actions must be stopped forthwith. Even a National Housing Corporation Officer, Mr Fabian Kuo, was chased out of his office by Mr Simon Hans the counselor and I appeal to the Governor and the provincial administrator to intervene and allow common sense to prevail for the good of our people.

Mr Deputy Speaker, having said that, I have directed the National Housing Corporation management and its senior management officials to immediately undertake the following course of actions;

(1) National Housing Corporation lawyers to immediately file an urgent application to the District and National Court to try to prevent evictions until the transfer of title to the joint purchaser is properly investigated and verified by the NHC and Department of Lands and Physical Planning,

(2) NHC Management to put a complete stop on all eviction exercises nationwide unless through a lawful court order on defaulting tenants after exhausting all the humanitarian grounds,

(3) This is a clear example of what I term as legacy issues and before the year ends, I will make sure that NHC will be better equipped with an online asset inventory management system to avoid such malpractices of manual processing of titles or property transfer. This will be a thing of the past under the new-look NHC administration,

(4) I want to assure this honourable House that I will get to the bottom of this road to ascertain how the title was transferred to a third party who was not physically residing on the concerned property for well over 46 years, and if NHC officers are found to be responsible than they shall be terminated forthwith as I am adamant to stamp out corruption in NHC during my term as Minister for Housing in the Marape-Rosso Government, and

(5) For the Jiwaka case, I have a directive to be given to NHC senior management to hold a discussion with the Jiwaka Provincial Administration, Minj Urban LLG, and the Minj Police Commander to amicably resolve this from happening again.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JELTA WONG (Gazelle-Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS –
REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

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

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Minister for Internal Security from presenting a Ministerial Statement being called on forthwith.

**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL SECURITY – UNDERTAKING OF LAW AND ORDER
ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE
NOTE OF THE PAPER**

Mr PETER TSIAMALILI JNR (Bougainville – Minister for Internal Security) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and leaders of this Honourable House, I am happy to stand before you all to finally present my ministerial statement. Before I present my statement, just for the purpose of our country and also our leaders, the ministry covers two big departments; the Police and Correctional Services and Authority which is the Security Industry Authority project which is the national identification project or NID.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to update the House on the work that my ministry is undertaking to address the law and order issues that are facing our nation. I do so at a time when crime levels are rising and the capacity of our police to respond to more constraints are more than ever. Our nation is a diverse and culturally rich country but it is this very diversity that possesses significant challenges to law enforcing including public safety and security.

The country's physical geography and the increase in population against a stagnant organizational strength and new and emerging crimes have challenged the country's law enforcement capacity. In the space of the PNGRC, it is the primary law enforcement agency in the country responsible for maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety. Yet the organization faces a range of challenges that affects its ability to carry out constitutional mandate as concerns of law and order center around criminal violence and the limited effectiveness of state controls.

Simply put, the continuing escalation of disorder in many areas reflects the limitation of state authority.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the current issues that threaten our national internal security include; arms pro-foliation, the use of abuse and pro-foliation of illicit substance such as methmetaphine and cocaine, sexual violence, alcohol abuse, sorcery-related violence, election - related violence, sea piracy, ethnic tension and violence, kidnapping and transnational crimes; including trafficking in humans, arms and drugs. Also, the production and trade of counterfeit goods, fraud and extortion, money laundering and cyber-crimes.

Complex crimes take time to investigate and prosecute, others are costly given the geographic terrain and accessibility to the crime scene. Some crimes are fueled, aided and perpetuated by high powered firearms. The proliferation of weapons only adds to the challenges that we face. In my view the endorsement and implementation of the Gun Report of 2006 by retired Army General Singirok is a way forward for us to administer and control firearms in the country. The simple fact is that the use of this high-powered weapons in committing serious crimes, the breakdown in law and order and state institutions' inability to exercise authority only exacerbate the very significant challenges that we face.

The challenges that are within the RPNGC and many of these challenges are undermining the ability of the PNGRPC to execute its constitutional functions effectively, some are significant and worth noting.

Police to Population Ratio

The United Nations recommended police to citizen ratio is one policeman to 220 citizens. The current population in the country in 2023 is projected to approximately increase by 1.8 per cent from 2022. The uniformed Police numbers in 2021 were 6,535, since then the RPNGC has not recruited any new officers. And deaths, termination, retirement and organizational separation have reduced this figure to just 5,600 uniformed officers.

This means that PNG presently has police to citizen ratio of one police officer is to 1,845 citizens. This is almost nine times the United Nations recommended ratio. Simply put, how can we expect the women and men in uniform to make a difference when their numbers as a proportion of the population are so low?

16/08

Mr Assistant Speaker, lack of reporting and reluctance to pursue cases, particularly sorcery-related violence cases – there is also minimal reporting of crime in many parts of PNG and even when crimes are reported, many are never pursued to prosecution. There are notable reasons for this. They include, Mr Assistant Speaker; superstitious beliefs – where reporting or assisting in pursuing a case is viewed with suspicion, retaliation by suspects and their relatives and the remoteness of crimes and accessibility to police service. Many crimes occur in a very remote place with minimal access to police or in some cases, none.

Mr Assistant Speaker, inadequate training to deal with new and emerging transnational crimes. New and emerging crimes like kidnapping and transnational crimes include computer and cyber crimes continue to challenge the RPNGC. The lack of adequate training and resources and equipment require to address these crimes effectively is one thing, the RPNGC cannot address these crimes alone. There needs to be a collective and collaborative approach between law enforcement agencies, both internal and external.

Policing the Digital World.

The availability and use of digital tools to communicate on the internet, digital devices, smart devices and other technologies including social media platforms have stretched our capacity to meet expectations. There is no structured way of reporting, analysing, documenting and processing crimes reported on social media platforms. It is impossible to initiate criminal proceedings when crimes are reported on social media without formal complaint at their police station. Yet the public expects the royal police constabulary to respond. What is more concerning is the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, which can potentially destabilize peace.

Mr Assistant Speaker, mediocre performance by our commissioning officers or assistant police commissioners, and provincial police commanders including directors. Most of the challenges facing the RPNGC and the way forward to address the challenges are captured in the RPNGC Corporate Plan 2021-2030. The plan has achievable outcomes within specific time frames but this requires drivers to execute and achieve results. In other words, a plan without execution is futile.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary faces a chronic shortage of middle managers, provincial commanders and directors that can support the organisation in achieving its priorities and goals in the corporate plan. For example, investigation and prosecution

remain a core function of the crimes division in the RPNGC but the statistics show that the division is lagging, and this points to the lack of leadership. Leadership issues also have implications for the command and control of subordinates. As a case in point, a monetary and evaluation exercise conducted towards the end of 2022 for assistant commissioners revealed an average score of 45 percent for overall performance. What this shows is that the current crop of assistant commissioners was unable to deliver on key priorities contained in the Corporate Plan, including reforms initiated by the executive management.

Measures Taken by the RPNGC

The Commissioner's intent for 2023 is overarching and aimed at addressing some of the challenges that the organisation currently faces. These include; growing and improving RPNGC, building a safe PNG, strengthening partnerships, leadership and governance, investing in infrastructure and in human resource management and development. Growing and improving RPNGC – successive governments have given lip service to the RPNGC in terms of increasing its police uniform numbers.

17/08

Official documents including the Medium-Term Development Plans I, II, III are all committed to increase police numbers. Those commitments have never been matched by political will, but that is going to change.

Mr Assistant Speaker, this year 2023, for the first time in more than a decade, the Marape-Rosso government has significantly increased the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary budget.

The RPNGC has embarked on a mass recruitment drive, which commenced early this year. The recruitment of regular police officers is almost complete, and the training of the first 320 recruits will begin in April.

The Bomana Centre of Excellence, formerly Bomana Police College, has the capacity to train 640 officers annually. Increasing the number of trainees above this threshold is limited by the training facilities and instructors.

Mr Assistant Speaker, that is why our Government has commissioned a second training centre at Gusap, Morobe Province to be commissioned as a regional training centre. The new centre will allow us to increase the annual number of trainees. As a consequence, police numbers

and the police-to-citizen ratio will significantly improve as we continue to maintain current support and funding over the next decade.

Building a safer PNG

The RPNGC is also working to build a safer, and by consequence, more prosperous PNG. Our initiatives include:

- Increased direct support to our country's extractive industries.
- An investigations task force team to address major unresolved crimes.
- An operational plan for the western force special policing arrangement, which will deploy 230 personnel to the western end command to assist the local police; and
- To establish a Family Sexual Violence Units (FSVU) in all our major provincial centres to address gender-based violence.

Strengthening partnership, leadership and governance

Partnership programs enhance capacity building and improve capability and information sharing. The RPNGC has reached out to provincial and district governments to strengthen policing at the different levels of government.

It is also forming strategic partnerships with its regional and international counterparts, particularly law enforcement agencies. Strategic partnerships with regional and international counterparts is critical to address our transnational crime.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in line with the government's minimum service delivery framework, provincial police commanders (PPCs) in each province have developed provincial and district development plans focused on improving police service delivery at the provincial and district levels. Each PPC has been instructed to work closely with provincial and district administrators and elected leaders (Governors and Members of Parliament) as these plans require collective efforts and support from the provincial and district governments.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the RPNGC has also recently partnered with the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) to police the digital world. The cyber coordination centre will address cyber and computer crimes, monitor social media platforms and report crimes to police for action.

The administration and mechanisms of the operation will be captured in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the RPNGC and DICT. Members of DICT will be sworn in as special constables, so they enjoy the same policing powers as regular members of the RPNGC.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the RPNGC recognizes its limited capacity and ability to address, for example, transnational crimes and capacity building. For this reason, it is continuing to strengthen relationships with traditional partners, and forging new partnerships with other law enforcement agencies and organizations in the region.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the relationship with the Australian Federal Police through the Papua New Guinea-Australia Policing Partnership (PNG-APP) has matured. Capacity building, information sharing, and technology transfer are some of the activities undertaken by the program.

For example, over 130 police prosecutors will graduate with Diplomas in Prosecution in the next two years, a new initiative supported by the PNG-APP to build the capacity of police prosecutors. This strategic partnership benefits both countries.

18/08

Mr Assistant Speaker, the Commissioner of Police under my direction has established a Strategic Partnership Engagement Coordination (SPEC) body to manage and coordinate bilateral, multi-lateral, and inter-government partnership arrangements. SPEC will coordinate resources and support to address priority areas affecting the RPNGC, and maximise the resource support to targeted areas to improve overall effectiveness and efficiency in delivering policing service.

The RPNGC has also forged and strengthened partnerships with the Indonesian Police, Solomon Islands Police, and the US Government Law Enforcement Agency - Homeland Security Investigation.

Infrastructure Development

Let me now speak on some of our investments in infrastructure. The RPNGC has conducted feasibility studies into rehabilitating and building new Highway Patrol bases in all provinces. Our aim is to have these bases at a spacing of 60 kilometres apart. We have conducted feasibility studies into reviving and strengthening Water Police bases in coastal areas. These activities support the National Government's broader PNG Connect initiative. We are also investing in new training facilities; classrooms, a mess, and a gymnasium are under construction to cater for recruits.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the government has also approved the Special Policing Assistance Program (SPAP) to assist with its development activities, and PFDs for PIP have been submitted to National Planning and Treasury. The RPNGC has also established contact with Toyota in Japan

through the Japanese Embassy in PNG to purchase vehicles to re-fleet its aging fleet and reduce hires.

Strengthening Governance: Revising the *Police Act (1998)*

The RPNGC, with support from the Constitutional Law Reform Commission, is currently revising the *Police Act (1998)* to accommodate development strategies, key focus areas, the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), and the Commissioner's intentions.

Human Resource Management and Development

We are also investing in human resource management and development. The RPNGC, with support from the PNC-APP program, will recruit expatriates into key positions in the Crimes Division, Fraud, Traffic, and Internal Affairs Directorate. This initiative aims to improve performance in the specific divisions and directorates which are currently lagging. The expatriates will assist in mentoring and capacity building. They are expected to join the RPNGC in April 2023.

The RPNGC has also revised its organisational structure to accommodate the prevailing challenges, including poor performance by the executive, senior and middle managers.

For example, Divisional Commanders in the regions will be reduced to Commanders instead of Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACP). They will enjoy current emoluments and benefits, but will be reduced in rank. This flattened structure enhances better coordination, command, and control.

We are increasing police numbers and improving infrastructure. We are investing in training, and calling poor performing officers to account. We are actively progressing legislative change where that is necessary and working to improve operational capacity.

Papua New Guinea Correctional Service (PNGCS)

Mr Assistant Speaker, Papua New Guinea Correctional Service completes the Law and Justice Sector Criminal Justice System. It is one of the Agency that is responsible, by law, to hold prisoners, to manage them, rehabilitate and reform them, and prepare them to go back to the Society. It is also responsible to hold all the remand detainees in custody whilst waiting for their Court cases.

Today, CS holds over 5,000 detainees in 20 Correctional Institutions and 6 Rural Lock UPS. All these detainees are held in Custody 24/7, 365 days, with my officers also rotating on work from day to night shifts, to keep these detainees in custody.

19/08

Mr Assistant Speaker, many critics continue to ridicule our Correctional Officers, when there is an escape from a correctional institution, to when detainees are outside of correctional institutions. Yes, I admit that. However, we must appreciate our Correctional Officers for taking care of over 5,000 detainees in custody, with 1,062 convicted detainees completing their sentences successfully back to 2022, compared to out of 210 detainees who escaped in 2022, 166 of them are still on the run, while 38 have been recaptured by joint CS-Police Operations.

Mr Assistant Speaker, our rehabilitation does not make it to our print and social media platforms, however, over 700 convicted low risk detainees are being rehabilitated in many programs being coordinated at the correctional institutions, through:

- Garment & Textile Industries
- Farms and Gardens
- FODE, TVET, Literacy and Number Programs
- Bible Correspondence Courses
- Bakery
- Oil Palm, Cocoa, and Coffee Projects

Routine Buildings and Vehicles Maintenance • Community and Civil Services

Mr Assistant Speaker, we should be proud of the successes we have in our Correctional Service. CS is moving towards reforming the current establishment through its rebuilding its Human Resources. CS current Officers now at 1,522 and rebuilding to 2,700 in 2032.

Mr Assistant Speaker, CS is partnering with Police and Defence Force, through putting their front-line officers through a 2-year cadetship training, at the Joint Forces College. CS is recruiting over 100 new officers. CS has engaged with Solomon Island Correctional Service to allow 7 of their Officers to train with their PNGCS colleagues. Over 300 officers have completed their TVET certificates, officers graduating to diplomas, under-graduate certificates and to master certificates. In total, over 800 CS officers are graduates of colleges and universities in-country, and overseas.

CS is rebuilding its workforce by direct employment of 33 new health officers, currently increasing health officers' numbers to 46 around the 20 correctional institutions. The position taken by CS to increase its manpower is to recruit and employ expertise in the field of psychiatrists, psychologists, infrastructure specialists, social counsellors, chaplains, and operational officers.

Mr Assistant Speaker, CS is also building its own CS Hospital, to cater for detainees referred from other Institutions, and to cater for Detainees with mental health issues. This position is taken in order to stop detainees from escaping from Public Hospitals, but, most importantly, to secure detainees in a secured environment in order to continue their medical treatment.

Mr Assistant Speaker, maintaining current assets, starting with staff houses, detainee dormitories, and office buildings to utilities like sewerage, water and electricity requires huge resources from technical expertise, huge budget and other resources. CS has over 1,042 staff houses/barracks to accommodate the same number of Officers. Increasing the manpower to 2,700 requires 1, 700 staff houses/barracks. The same accommodation problem applies to overcrowding in many of our correctional institutions, with over 500 detainees requiring 5 dormitories per 100 detainees, to 10 dormitories per 50 detainees.

20/08

One option that Correctional Services is pushing is to have TVET Centres established in six correctional institutions;

- (1) Bomana is in National Capital District
- (2) Baisu is in Western Highlands province
- (3) Kerevat is in East New Britain province
- (4) Buimo is in Morobe province
- (5) Hawa is in Hela province

Mr Assistant Speaker, preparing our convicted detainees to undergo TVET courses at these correctional institutions, will set the foundation, to have a qualified detainee, working along-side correctional technical officers to carry out general maintenance on our houses, dormitories, around the correctional institutions. This approach will save cost, but, help with sets of skills and knowledge, along with experiences of our convicted detainees will gain. The Correctional Services and State will benefit from these exercises. Correctional Services is exploring more reforms in infrastructure and human resource capacity building.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the need to introduce electronic surveillance systems is important in our correctional institutions. This is to control and monitor movement of illicit drugs, smuggling in mobile phones, monitoring officers and detainees' interactions, and providing a timely surveillance over general operations. Correctional Services is working together with International

Committee of Red Cross with the ongoing technical support on our future designs of infrastructures to cater for CCTV, and good Detention Management Plan, as well as health support to our detainees.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in summing the work of Correctional Services we have;

- Established Garment and Textile Industries at Bomana Correctional Institution and Buimo Correctional Institution

- Established Oil Palms at Lakiamata, Giligili, Kavieng and Biru Correctional Institution.

- Established Correctional Services Juvenile Centre at Bomana Correctional Institution in consultation with Department of Justice and Attorney General

- Transferring Correctional Services Intelligence Officers to Police, Defence Force and National Intelligence Organization.

- Established one Correctional Service hospital at Bomana Correctional Institution, for referrals and for mental health; currently using an existing dormitory.

- Building perimeter fences to stop detainees escaping at Buimo, Kerevat, Lakiamata and Boram.

- Continue to complete the ongoing new Mukurumanda Correctional Facility at Enga.

- Continue supporting the construction of perimeter fence at Hawa Correctional Institution.

- Continue and complete the Boram female dormitory.

- Pushing for provincial tendering for the Buimo and Giligili 100-men dormitories.

- Pushing for the provincial tendering of the new Balimo rural lock-up.

- Seek government's support to re-fleet the aging vehicles in Correctional Services.

- Explore the expansion of the Bougainville Correctional Service; to the three regions of North, Central and South.

- Creating new 800 positions for officers, to increase the manpower from our current 1500 to 2700.

Mr Assistant Speaker, there are many successes noted in our correctional institutions. Amidst the difficult times we are faced with, we must appreciate all the efforts our officers are putting together through commitments, to make Correctional Services a better place for our remand and convicted detainees to live, learn, and become better citizens. Having stated the successes, there are challenges which must not be set aside.

They are;

(1) The need for reform taking place in Correctional Service cannot be filled as goods and services Annual Budget is not increased from K34 million to the required K66 million annually required.

(2) The price increase has contributed to Correctional Services officers and detainees missing out on uniforms.

(3) A total of 1,042 staff houses are current but we need 500 extras to cater for the increase.

(4) To increase manpower to the expected 2,700 was certainly highlighted and the need to increase accommodation to 1, 700.

(5) The use of mobile phones and other illegal items by detainees in Correctional Services requires CCTV and jamming systems to control them.

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(6) We have a growing debt of K30 million going back to 2005.

Mr Assistant Speaker, CS is taking major legal and policy reforms. Correctional Service is reviewing its current legislation in consultation with CLRC. Main areas of reform will be in creating an avenue for Correctional Services to have its own Prison Industry Authority.

Establishing this business entity will improve and strengthen the ongoing prison industries. This is where revenue will be generated to keep the industries operating and expanding where required. This is where funds generated can support correctional service operations. This is where convicted detainees can have start-up funds to help them when they leave the correctional facility.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the legislation reform will improve and strengthen disciplinary processes where the Commissioner can dismiss officers for misappropriation, for aiding prisoners to escape from prison, and for officers trading with prisoners. The legislation reform will allow correctional service officers to engage with national and international engagement, and as well as participating in United Nations peace-keeping duties.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in the space of the Security Industries Authority (SIA), it is a government body that is established by section 4 of the *Security Industry Act 2004*. It officially came into existence in 2006 and it has been in operations for 17 years now. The main functions of the Security Industries Authority under section 5 of the *Security Industries Act 2004* is:

- (1) To issue security licenses and guard permits to security guards to do security business.
- (2) To regulate the conduct of security guards and security companies.

(3) To approve or establish security training institutions to train all security guards.

The Security Industries Council is a board that is legally established by section 7 of the *Security (Protection) Industry Act*, while section 8 sets out its duties as the governing body. The council is made up of eight members from various stake holders under the chairmanship of the Commissioner who controls the affairs of the Security Industries Authority by:

(1) Holding regular meetings to make policy decisions for the implementation by the Registrar of the Security Industries Authority and his staff to take the authority forward.

(2) Consulting industry players for their input on how the industry should operate.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the authority's head office is currently located at the L & A building at Ume Street, Gordon industrial area in NCD. The office caters for southern and NGI region clients. The office is headed by the Registrar (CEO) who has a total 14 staff which comprises of the Registrar himself and 13 others working under him. Eleven officers are based in NCDC with the Registrar, while the other three are based in Lae office. The Lae Office consist of a Regional Security Inspector Momase, a Regional Security Inspector Highlands, and an Office Receptionist.

SIA also intends to move to the highlands regions. The office currently set up in Lae will be moved to Mt Hagen while the current NGI Office in NCD will be moved to Kimbe, to bring services closer to security companies and security guards based there and also effectively regulate them. Doing this will improve efficiency, reduce cost and support growth of security business in the respective regions.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the SIA has had nil government budgetary support. When the Security Industries Authority came in to existence in 2006, it was supported by a yearly government budgetary funding of K900,000 apart from the approximately K800,000 it made annually from security licensing and security guards permit fees. However, the government funding ceased in early 2011 due to part three of the NEC Decision NO 287/2003 dated 17 December, 2003.

As a result, from 2011 till now 2023, the Security Industries Authority has been self-sustaining and operating without government budgetary support. Because it now depends solely on approximately K1.5 million it makes yearly from the security licensing and security guards permits fees, it collects from private security companies to support its operations.

22/08

As a result, from 2011 till now 2023, the Security Industries Authority has been self-sustaining and operating without Government Budgetary support. Because it now depends solely on approximately K 1.5 million it makes yearly from the security licensing and security guards permits fees it collects from private security companies to support its operations.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the New SIA Corporate Plan The SIA has completed its five year (2023 to 2027) Corporate Plan and a Business plan which includes the new organisational structure to cater for the new positions to be filled in the proposed NGI, Highlands and for the NCD southern region Offices. Once the Council approves the new Cooperate Plan it will be taken to the DPM for approval and effected thereafter. It will coincide with the current ongoing amendments to increase the licensing fees in the Security (Protection) Industries Act 2004 to financially empower the SIA to support the new SIA corporate plan do its work effectively to support the growth of security industry in PNG.

Mr Assistant Speaker, Establishment of Board of Complaints (BOC)- and Legal deficiencies identified in the current Security (Protection) Industries Act 2004. Dealing with awarding penalties to offending security companies and their guards. In March 2021 the Board of Complaints was legally established in compliance with section 57 of the Security (Protection) Industries Act 2004 by the Security Industries Authority (SIA to investigate the fight between two (2) security companies at the Jackson Airport. This resulted in damages done to the NAC properties and disturbed the flight operations which was reported in the media.

However, during the series of the Board of Complaints hearing in to the incident it was discovered that the Security (Protection) Industries Act 2004 and the Security (Protection) Industries Regulation 2012 didn't have the legal mechanism such as the Security Code of Conduct and the Disciplinary Points Register built in to the Act and the Regulation to empower the Board of Complaints to deliberate on the matter and award appropriate penalties to the offending security companies. Thereafter the Security Industries Council sought assistance from the First Legislative Council (FLC). And the FLC is currently working on the amendments in the Security (Protection) Industries Regulation 2012 to empower the Security Industries Authority (SIA) to do its job.

Consultation with security industry players; once done, and industry players will be consulted for their input and endorsed by the Council and it will go to the NEC for approval. Then it will be gazetted by the Governor General to make it a law. Hence, the revised Regulation, will

empower the SIA through the Board of Complaints to deal with security guards and companies that breach their code of ethics and award appropriate penalties. As I speak, the Draft Regulation is now before the First Legislative Council for their review and drafting.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the establishment of the Security Training Committee the Security Industries Council in 2021 approved for the establishment of the Training Committee made up of two current council members and the Registrar and his staff to relook at the current security training syllabus and improve to train guards. To cater for this the Authority has budgeted some money to engage a private security consultant to draft the standardised course syllabus to train the guards. The Industry players will be consulted on this drafting.

Once done the SIA will seek approval from the National Training Council (NTC) under the N TC Act of 1991. And thereafter the SIA will grant approval to private training companies to train the guards. By doing so will improve the quality for the guards to be disciplined towards their duties. And add value to their CV for better remunerations. And the SIA will work with training companies to audit the number of guards trained to work further to improve in training syllabus. Because currently there is no control on security companies that are training the security guards. And the SIA does not know the courses syllabus they are teaching the guards.

Mr Assistant Speaker, growth of the security Industry, the Security Industries Authority was established by the Security Protection Industries Act 2004 and it came into operation in 2006. And by then it registered 174 security companies that employed a total of 12,396 guards. But after 16 years as of December 2022, the total number of licensed security companies rose to 562, employing a total of 29,445 security guards.

Mr Assistant Speaker, with the registration of foreign owned security companies; all security companies either it be a foreign owned company or nationally owned company first register with the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA). And are issued a Certificate of Incorporation (Company) or a Business Name before they come to the Security Industries Authority to register and issued Security Licence and Guard Permits.

What *Security Protection (Industries) Act 2004* says on Registration of Foreign-owned Security Companies – there is no specific clause in the *Security (Protection) Industries Act 2004* that restricts foreigners from registering and operating security companies in PNG. Therefore, the SIA allows any foreign owned security companies to register and operate as long as the company is legally registered with IPA and the IRC and pays tax to the IRC.

In relation to information on who are the owners of foreign owned security companies; the information on owners or directors of foreign owned security companies are provided to SIA from the information contained in the IPA Company or Business Abstract via its website. And the SIA has the database of all the security companies in the country and thus it has names of all the owners and directors of the foreign owned companies. Total number of foreign owned security companies is 15 as at December 2022. The 15 foreign owned companies are registered and are compliant with the Acts.

With the workforce; the Security Industry is one of the industries in the Law & Justice Sector that employs the largest workforce (29,445).

Mr Assistant Speaker, the security industry supporting police and law & order issues in PNG. Security companies are supporting police help reduce crime by protecting life and property and also providing employment for many of our men and women and more importantly supporting the economy, while police concentrate on investigating and arrest.

Mr Assistant Speaker, Importance of NID registrations for our citizens: Civil registration and identification of all Papua New Guineans and others who dwell within our borders is too important to ignore as it is the genesis of development. This comprise the total process of collecting information on the occurrence and characteristics of vital events (e.g. birth, death, cause of death, marriage, adoption, etc.); and generating vital statistics through the compilation, analysis, evaluation, presentation and dissemination of data.

23/08

This comprise the total process of collecting information on the occurrence and characteristics of vital events (e.g. birth, death, cause of death, marriage, adoption, etc.); and generating vital statistics through the compilation, analysis, evaluation, presentation and dissemination of data.

Mr Assistant Speaker, PNGCIR developed its corporate vision from the above priority area of governance in the Medium Term Development Program (MTDP III) and support fully the documented goals as follows:

- The Government will implement a modern, reliable and secure National Identification NID system to support governance and the delivery of government services;

- The NID system will enable the effective delivery of public services and promote better governance;

- The Government will strengthen the legal and institutional framework for NID, enhance technology and infrastructure, raise public awareness and understanding, and ensure coordination and collaboration among relevant government agencies;

- The NID system will facilitate effective governance by providing accurate data on the population, which will inform policy and planning decisions.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the stored data of citizens has the potential to transform the way citizens interact with government, promote financial inclusion, social welfare, and enhance the efficiency of businesses. It will have significant benefits for citizens, businesses, and the government. Citizens will have access to a range of government services through a single digital identity, and businesses will benefit from reduced transaction costs and increased efficiency. The government will have better data on its citizens, enabling it to design more effective policies and programs.

It is such that, on behalf of the Marape-Rosso Government, I have directed PNGCIR NID Project to register 95 per cent of the population by 16th September 2025 as a Golden Jubilee Anniversary gift to Papua New Guinea.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in order to implement the ministerial directive, PNGCIR will need to register 2.48 million per annum for the next two and half years. The other six months will be used as a map up late registration window for the marginalized and hard to reach communities. With the national average cost of registration of K50, this annual registration targets require a funding envelope of K310 million plus manpower, machines, materials, and methods.

Mr Assistant Speaker, political will, and support is essentially paramount to assist in this endeavor and my Ministry is in the process to bring to NEC a Policy Submission on Counter Funding Options/Strategies to support the implementation of my Ministerial Policy Directive to register 95 per cent population by 2025. The Policy calls for provinces and districts to allocate funding support to PNGCIR through their PSIP and DSIP grants to empower the registry to go to the people and ensure everyone is accounted for and accorded legal identity.

Mr Assistant Speaker, from 2015 to 31st December 2022 a total of 2,855,271 registrations nationwide have been collected. The total registrations comprise of adults (18 years of age and above) 2,085,628 (76 per cent) where the registrants will collect birth certificates and NID cards,

768,288 (24 per cent) persons below the age of 18 who will collect birth certificates, and 1355 (>1 per cent) others which relate to registrations of adoption, death, marriage, and legitimization.

I wish to acknowledge Prime Minister, Honorable James Marape, for his continued support of the PNG National Identity Document Project. These are difficult times and this project continues to benefit from the clarity of your vision and the strength of your leadership.

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Mr Assistant Speaker, the registration of public servants is priority when at this stage until we account for all public servants and implement the Government's One Position, One Person, One Pay policy until the government knows the numbers of people it exists to serve and protect. It can never fully allocate limited resources in a fair and equitable manner. As the NID project moves to register the rest of Papua New Guinea, I would like to on behalf of the Marape- Rosso Government call on all Heads of Departments, CEOs of National Public Service entities to move towards ensuring that we know the beast we feed by supporting this registration drive.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I am calling on our Honourable Members and NEC to do what we can, where we can so that we might at least set down the right foundation for more accurate and reliable development planning in our country.

Lastly, I would like to make mention of the in-house cultural change in the PNG Civil and Identity Registry. The national average age of the 531 recruited to work there is 27 years of age. This means that they have a lot of energy at work, each staff is monitoring their own KPIs and they are taught to work long hours without overtime just to meet their personal KPI and they are rewarded or penalized accordingly.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I am very impressed with the savings culture that the PNGCR management has instilled among the young staff. This is the culture I would like to see us breed in our public servants. A financially sound public servant is not a risk nor is a liability to the system and operations of the public service. Let me conclude here that the reforms we have put in place and the partnerships that we are forming to deliver results.

In short, the Marape- Rosso Government is committed to addressing law and order and laying the foundation for an effective responsive RPNGC into the future. As Minister for Internal Security I am acutely aware of the law-and-order challenges our nation continues to face. Our Government is committed to taking whatever action is necessary to ensure that our National Police

Force can address these challenges. I will not waver in the task that is before me. I am confident that in the coming years we will see substantial change that will benefit our nation, our economy, and our people.

With this I commend this Ministerial statement to this Honourable House, thank you.

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM (Telefomin – Minister for Works and Highways) –

I move –

That Parliament take note of the paper and debate be adjourned.

Debate adjourned.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That grievances be noted.

Tax System

Mr LUTHER WENGE (Morobe) - Thank you, I wish to speak on the statement presented by the Minister for Police on the Correctional Services and Security situation of the disciplined forces, however the debate has been adjourned, I will continue with the grievance debate.

Before I go onto my grievance debate, I would like the Minister for Treasury and our Prime Minister Honourable James Marape to take note. My grievance is in relation to a question on tax I asked the Minister on Tuesday.

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I asked the Minister to give 100 percent inland tax to the Morobe province while the Government keeps its import tax levy, company tax and government and private sector worker's tax. I just want the inland tax to be given to the Morobe provincial government. These three types of tax can amount up to K3billion each, that is, Inland tax K1 billion, company tax K1 billion and another K1 billion from import tax levy.

Mr Assistant Speaker, these taxes are collected in the Morobe province and the tax that a lot of working Morobeans are paying. I am here to talk about this tax and not the oil, gas and minerals tax. This is big companies' tax that they pay to the Government and provincial governments that have equity. I am talking about the tax that the Morobe people pay, the Inland Tax, the tax that is collected in the province. Morobe has a population of about 1 million and if you count the unborn children, that brings it to about 1.5million. So Morobe is a big province.

Lae connects 10 districts in the province however, 9 of those districts do not have roads. People in those districts are living in mountain areas and are suffering. They choose to stay there since their ancestors settled there. Clouds cover this mountain region of Morobe and this shows that our mountains are bigger than the rest of the country's hence, we have rainfall every day. This in turn makes it hard for planes to reach them, services to reach them, roads to reach them and bridges to connect them. It is also the same sad situation for the seas between Morobe and East and West New Britain where we have some of the toughest waters that have swallowed numerous boats and passengers. It is a heavy burden! Many services do not reach the people. If there are people in the mountainous region of the province, doctors, nurses, teachers do not reach them. This has made it hard for government services to reach them.

Mr Assistant Speaker, it has become harder than ever. That is why I am here to ask the Minister about the money that Morobe pays from their own pockets when they are buying tin fish and sugar or a new car. That is the 10 percent government tax that is collected by the Government of which the Government gets 7 percent and the 3 percent goes to the provincial government.

Mr Assistant Speaker, by the law 10 percent is taxed, 3 percent goes to the provincial government and 7 percent to the Government, however, this 3 percent hardly gets to the provincial government. By a formula IRC developed, less than 3 percent stays in Morobe and this money is insufficient to build roads, bridges, wharves and ships. We need to buy ships and planes so the people can have access to services. We cannot build because there is no money and we are suffering. I challenged this Government in 2005 and won a supreme court case whereby a five-man bench agreed with me that the tax system in this country is no good. It is unreasonable for the people.

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five judges agreed with me that the tax-system in this country is unreasonable to the people, particularly to the tax payers. I won that Supreme Court on a bench of five to zero.

I then signed an agreement with the then-Somare Government, that the tax will be shared 60 to 40 per cent on inland tax. This law was never implemented while I was away from Parliament. I do not want to ask about the 60 to 40 per cent tax again, I want it to be a 100 per cent of inland tax. If you give a 100 per cent inland tax, you will not see Morobe again because that money will be sufficient.

We just heard the Minister for Internal Affairs talked about law and order. If I start getting inland tax, I will not need PNG's support. I will have enough money from the coalition partners and tax-payers of Morobe. Just give me my inland tax to build roads and school infrastructures.

The Government has provided free education through subsidy, thus we need good school infrastructures for our children to use. We also need hospitals and people in rural areas of Morobe lack proper health facilities. They need to be brought in to Lae to receive medical attention. To come to Lae, they need roads and airstrips. We need proper infrastructures in our rural areas so that doctors and nurses will be able to live there and provide the necessary services to help our people.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I want the inland tax to be a 100 per cent. I will petition the Minister in the next Parliament sitting to give me a 100 per cent of the inland tax. You will be asking for trouble if you do not give it to me. I will challenge you in the Supreme Court.

The tax system is unreasonable. It is repugnant and unfair to the general principles of humanity in this country. A research was conducted –

Mr Salio Waipo – Point of Order! With respect to the Governor of Morobe, I come from his region too. I understand that the people of Papua New Guinea are watching. Our region produces leaders that always thinks about Papua New Guinea. United we stand.

When we address Parliament, we should talk about unity and nationalism –

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Member, state your point of order so I can make a ruling.

Mr Salio Waipo – When he speaks for Morobe, he is also speaking for Madang and the Sepiks. We are all Momase and we are all Papua New Guineans. I want to remind the Governor of Morobe that we look up to him as a big brother in our region. We should be looking at Papua New Guinea when we speak. I respect the Governor, but I also want to make this comment that it is better to address this country properly during our grievance debate because people are watching. Thank you.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Member, your point of order is not in order. The honourable Governor for Morobe may continue.

Mr LUTHER WENGE – If you want to debate, you can do so.

Mr Assistant Speaker, may you give me two more minutes.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I do not think that what I am talking about is not in the interest of the whole country. There are other provinces listening but I can't speak for you all. The respective members of Parliament can talk about their own provinces. The problems I am going through in my province; I don't think other provinces are experiencing it as well.

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The issues I am raising may not be the same as what you may be facing in your provinces and electorates.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your time is up but I am allowing you two minutes to complete your debate.

Mr LUTHER WENGE – Thank you Mr Assistant Speaker, my people have been suffering for a long time. They did not elect me to come sit here in this Parliament like a confused bird, no; I came here to talk about issues affecting them. As long as I follow the Standing Orders, I will talk.

But Mr Assistant Speaker, I thank you for allowing two minutes, I will present a petition and even take the matter to the Supreme Court because tax system is totally unreasonable and unconstitutional.

Thank you and peace be with you.

Increase funding for NIO

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA (Kiriwina-Goodenough) – Thank you Mr Assistant Speaker, for recognising the Opposition side. I also want to contribute to the Grievance Debate.

I want to ask the Prime Minister and the Government to please take note of Grievance Debates on Fridays and avoid other business to take much time for Grievance Debate.

Firstly, today we had presentations of Ministerial Statements starting from 11 o'clock till 12 p.m., and now we have less than an hour for Grievance Debate, which is the opportunity for back benchers and other members to share their grievances on this Floor of Parliament for the Government to hear.

Secondly, what are all the Ministers doing outside? During Grievances Debate individual members raises important points therefore the ministers must sit down and listen to the members grievances. I see some very faithful ones sitting down and taking note which, more than 50 per cent are not. This is not encouraging for the new comers. It seems that during Grievance Debate time majority members present are new comers and they continue this manner today in taking note. Where are the experienced ministers to listen and take note as well?

Mr Assistant Speaker, this morning we heard a report from the Minister for Internal Security, which is really a big concern for us here at the Opposition side. We know that in the National Budget, Mr Assistant Speaker and I thank the Prime Minister and his Cabinet for allocating big portion of funds to Police.

But, Mr Assistant Speaker, to my understanding, and the rumors I heard from officers within the organisation and to confirm, it appeared in the daily newspaper last week Monday that the new Fraud Squad Director, Chief Sergeant Bolo, stated that the National Fraud Squad Directorate lacks funding and the National Intelligence Organisation (NIO) also.

When you visit their offices you will be surprised that many desks are empty because of no funding to recruit more staff and it's really a big concern for me. If we had allocated funds for this organisation then by now a quarter or a third of the funding should be released to police.

The incident that occurred in Bulolo, the police had already known. Even the previous one in Central Province, involving the plane crash landing. Similar one in Milne Bay the illicit drugs were found buried in the sand on Budibudi Island.

In the last Parliament, I raised this issue that these illicit substances are already in PNG, so before it could happen in Central Province and Bulolo it already did happened in the Milne Bay waters and I warned that these illicit drugs are here and it will continue on because huge sums of money are exchanged to carry out this illegal activities.

Upon the Minister for Internal Security statement, the National Intelligence Organisation (NIO) needs to be fully funded because they are the eyes of the Government to see and warn the Government accordingly.

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NIO needs to be funded. These are the eyes of the government they see and warn the government, police, army or organizations before things happen. We shouldn't wait until things happen and we are surprised and come to the Parliament.

It is better we put warning signs out there so that our people can know. NIO needs funding. We've seen on the newspaper just a few days ago, the National Fraud Squad said they do not have funding to investigate these cases. So Police Minister, there is something that we in this House have to be serious about when it comes to law and order. I say this because piracy has never come to my Islands, of the Trobriand Islands.

Just a few weeks ago a yam business man who was crossing from Alotau to go to the Islands was held up by a gang. They removed everything that was on his dingy. So the concern of law and order is not only in our towns and cities. This brings me to the point that I want to raise.

Create More Jobs

Mr Assistant Speaker, a few days ago I heard the Minister for Treasury, in his Report on the Economic Update Implementation and Vision, on page number four he said, wasn't it great to see so many of our young people applying for job in January this year? Over 18,000 young men and women have applied for jobs in January in Papua New Guinea. My question is from those 18,000, how many have received successful responses. We can come out and say isn't it great that 18,000 young people have applied for jobs. The question is, how many of them got employed, that is the crunch of the issue.

Employment has become the biggest issue in the country today and yet our good Treasurer print it out in the paper and stated, isn't it great that 18,000 young people applied for jobs in January? Out of the 18,000 how many got employed? And that question needs to be answered. He

also in his response said, which families are suffering? When the question was raised by the Member for Ialibu-Pangia and the former Prime Minister. In his answer he said, ‘‘which families are suffering?’’ Who is suffering? Because the government’s relief or home package of K1.1 billion had been released/used and he is asking, about who is suffering? Somebody must be blind to be asking that question, because all you have to do is follow me down to the streets of Boroko, the buai market at Hanuabada and ask the families and the individuals out there. They’ll tell you the real struggle they are facing.

Today we are talking about the drug bust at Bulolo. These things have never happened in the past. They are happening now because individuals are looking for employment. They are looking for ways to survive and it is incumbent to this Government to make sure that employment is made possible.

I heard the Minister for Mining saying in a few weeks’ time Porgera Mine should open. It must open! We mustn’t just talk, it must open. At the same time the Member asked the question about river pollution. Whilst the mine must open, we must hold the mining companies accountable for the pollution of the rivers. They must not only make money and leave.

I worked for the big company called BHP in the past for seven years, and BHP when they polluted the rivers at Ok-Tedi they just left. It will also happen to these new mines. We want employment, I also need employment for my people.

Mr Assistant Speaker, our people have been calling for employment and us within this House

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Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Deputy Opposition Leader, I have to interrupt because you have only two minutes remaining.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker, our people want jobs and we are not creating jobs for them. We want to create more ministries. What about our people?

The funds that we are trying to expand to have more ministries would be better to have those funds expanded to create employment for our people in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Assistant Speaker, the other point that I want to raise is regarding to Treasury, Planning and Prime Minister vote 207.

Mr ASSISTANT SPEAKER – Honourable Deputy Opposition Leader, your Grievance Debate time has lapsed.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – My time has lapsed but this vote 207, can they provide more visibility for the House to know how they spent this K2 billion?

Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker.

Online Scammers

Ms KESSY SAWANG (Rai Coast) – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker, I also want to join the Grievance Debate.

Firstly, I want to thank the Minister for Internal Security for the comprehensive plan and the statement, he has delivered to Parliament today. My district is regarded as one of the crime hotspots in Papua New Guinea and has made headlines in the past.

But, I am grateful for the *National* and *Post-Courier*, which they did a report last week indicating that crime has been silent in my district. So, it indicates that I have been doing some work to address this issue and made some interventions without police presence.

I just want to share it with this Parliament that, in regards to the issue of law and order; we must go and work with the communities to build resilience, peace and security at the community level up. The National Government will meet these efforts by providing funds from the top-down to our communities and LLGs ward.

I am also commending the Minister for Internal Security for capturing the issue of cybercrime in his plan.

Mr Assistant Speaker, today I will be debating on the scams that is going on the social media and the scammers are convincing our people to make payments. One of them is Golden Sun and it's been trending on the social media for some time now. Our people in Papua New Guinea, have been deceived to invest in this scam called Golden Sun Limited.

Those people actually have the courage to use the letterhead of the Bank of Papua New Guinea, BSP, and Treasury to deceive our people. So far, I have heard that there must be around millions of kina which our people have invested in the Golden Sun and they will receive huge profit in return.

So, these are some of the cybercrime issues where I want the Minister for Internal Security to take note of and perhaps established a task force. The task force must have be comprised of people from our ICT and Police department to look into these online scams which is deceiving our people. I heard that Golden Sun has received K240 million from our people.

So, I make note on this and in terms of these criminals that are impersonating even leaders. For example; they are using our names and face on the social media to deceive Papua New Guineans and it's really hurting our people.

Finally, Mr Deputy Speaker, just a correction to the Governor of Morobe. He said that 'only Morobe people are paying the tax' and I am disagreeing with that because Ramu Sugar is located in my LLG. They are paying tax to Morobe.

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I disagree with his statement because Ramu Sugar is in my LLG and they pay tax to Morobe Provincial Government. Every cargo that comes to Lae comes from my district in Rai Coast.

Mr Luther Wenge – Point of Order! With due respect to our only sister, the point of my statement is that, whether you are from Morobe or from other districts and provinces and other international communities, as long as you are living in Morobe, you are paying the tax. That was what I meant so try and understand the point.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Thank you, Governor. It's only an explanation and it is not a point of order. It is a grievance debate and I'll let the Member for Rai Coast to continue with her debate.

Ms KESSY SAWANG – Thank you, Deputy Speaker. What I would like to say is that, Morobe is our industrial base for Papua New Guinea. Every day, cargoes that comes from Usino-Bundi and Ramu Nickel goes to the Lae Wharf and also, my people of Ramu Sugar go to Morobe to spend their money there. Also, our people up in the highlands region transport their garden produce to Morobe and spend money there. Therefore, Morobe is the gateway port for Papua New Guinea. All the cargoes from the Momase, New Guinea Islands and Highlands regions lands in

Morobe. So, for the governor to say only the people of Morobe pay tax to Morobe provincial government is not true because all of us are contributing to the economy of Morobe.

Thank you.

Mr WAKE GOI (Jimi) – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. I was unhappy with the Chair because I stood up several times but he did not recognise me since the beginning of the session last week up until today. The Chair must be fair and try to recognise those who stand up for the first time rather than recognising the same person all the time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, you are now recognised by the Chair.

Mr WAKE GOI – My comment to the Minister for Internal Security is that the Jiwaka jail was omitted and is not included. The three district MPs and Governor for Jiwaka have signed for the jail to be built in Jimi and you have acknowledged that and I am aware that you are working on it and hope that the CIS for Jiwaka will be based in Jimi to develop Jimi. Otherwise, the people of Jimi will be roaming the streets of Minz and Banz.

Also, Jimi does not have police personnel. When Southern Highlands and Western Highlands provinces were divided, Hela and Jiwaka provinces were created. Once we were divided we were not given our structure and we don't have a structure yet. I have mentioned this in the last term of Parliament and we are still waiting to have our police structure.

I just want the Internal Security Minister to take note that all the police personnel are engaged by the leaders and that is fine as they are protecting us. Sometimes, police officers from Jiwaka provide escort for me to my electorate and so there would be no police officers to remain in Minz and Banz. Therefore, I would be very happy if you could give me 20 or 30 police personnel for Jimi.

However, I would like to also debate on the high unemployment rate in our country. I would like to say that since we have all the technical and vocational schools operating in our country, we must give more support to them. This country is developing and everybody would like to have a house and need a carpenter, technician, plumber, electrician, and others. If everyone attends technical schools in the country and graduate with certificates and diplomas in various programs, they will be engaged and there won't be any unemployment in the country. It will take less time

for them to be trained but it will help them find employment. Now we are looking for carpenters because we are building a rural referral hospital -

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Now we are looking for carpenters because I embarked on a rural referral hospital so we have to build new houses for medical officers. I ask the Minister for Higher Education to take note that there seems to be courses and trainings everywhere especially in teaching. Almost five or six teacher's colleges have been established so far in the Eastern Highlands Province right before my very own eyes since my residence in Goroka for the last 30 years. Is the Minister aware of this? Are these institutions certified and recognised to carry out such trainings and courses?

These are everyday struggles where our young people can embark on doing business, gardening and make something out of their lives instead of spending most of their time on drinking and social media and keep blaming leaders for not creating their opportunities for employment.

These unemployment issues have just come recently. Many young people have graduated from higher institutions and still have no jobs yet. They need to get their hands dirty and come as low as security guards and cleaners. Anything that will be used as a stepping stone to bigger things.

I was a student and I used to clean the Kudgip Hospital very holiday because I needed the money. I grew my own kaukaus to sell to pay for my school needs because I only had a K20 allowance every term, given to me by my father who was a village man. Some of us came here by sheer hard work.

The unemployment issue of this time is the drive to and energy to utilise what they have, to sustain themselves, until the big break comes their way. Its pointless sitting down idle and expecting.

It saddens me today that in tertiary institutions and colleges students are freely given money by their parents and they drink it away every weekend. They ask the Governor, the Open Member, the President and their families and there is a lot of money given to them and they are the riches students because they get money from everybody. The land is fertile and all we need to do is sweat dig and make an honest income. We need to revive the agriculture colleges to encourage farming. We need to address our old vocational schools like Fatima et cetera. They need proper funding to accommodate school leavers.

Let me conclude by making a point on the influx of rural urban migration. You go to all the towns in this country, from Mt Hagen to Jiwaka, to Chimbu to Goroka, seven days a week, there is influx of people from all over the provinces. If there is a little trouble or disagreement, there will be chaos because people move together in numbers. We need to address this issue.

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Finally, at least Connect PNG can help to link all the roads and our people must earn their living. There are some policies that give free handouts but in the future, we should relook at these policies and create jobs for our people so that they can work their lands and produce to sell and earn a living. The roads are a good opportunity for our people to utilize instead of them being lazy and loitering around. This is my remark. Thank you.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH (Vanimo-Green) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would also like to highly commend the Minister for Internal Security for a very comprehensive ministerial statement and a clear pathway in the reforms in the Police force and the Correctional Service Institution. It demonstrates clearly the Marape-Rosso Government's seriousness in addressing law and order issues in our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to contribute to the much-debated K980 million loan from IMF or K3.25 billion. Now, firstly let me say from the outset that whatever decisions that we make as a government we must not surrender our sovereign rights. We must never surrender our sovereign rights.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I firmly believe in the style of our system of government and the type of society that our founding fathers envisioned in our foundation document which is the National Constitution.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I fought in Bougainville against our own brothers in the Bougainville Civil War, and at a certain point, I felt that the sovereign responsibilities of our Defense force were transferred to foreign machinery so I took up arms and repelled the foreign machinery from our country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am now compelled to declare that we must not surrender our sovereign rights and entrust it or trust it in any foreign body.

The economic management of our country is the sovereign right to determine our political and economic destiny and is the very thing that we desired when we called for and were granted independence on 16 September 1975. We must not surrender the management of our economy to the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, or any other collusion; bilateral or multi-lateral partners.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is morally wrong. I must caution our Government and our country that the current IMF assisted projects and structural benchmarks are the first steps towards surrendering those basic rights of our country.

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Are the first steps towards sharing those basic rights of our country. As I can see in the quantitative performance criteria, the indicative targets and the structural benchmarks under the proposed IMF programs, our government is held to ransom.

For instance, the Treasurer has told us the first disbursement of the fund of K310 million will be this month but the second will probably be in 2024.

While reforms and structural adjustments are needed, why does the Papua New Guinea government require outside assistance to perform a function that is sovereign to us. It is our sovereign duty, through refine policies and operate within the confines of existing legislation, the Government has so many options to overcome current problems. The first is to live within our means.

If we collect only K12 billion in internal revenue why is our expenditure budget at K24 billion? That is living beyond our means. If we import more than we export that is living beyond our means. Socio-economic problems are unavoidable facts faced by every government. We must manage those problems ourselves. Our people have lived for thousands of years without any outside assistance. The majority of our people live in rural areas and are self-reliant relying heavily on subsistence agriculture. We must not introduce dependency on aid or loans but rely on trade and self-reliance in our country.

We must inculcate in our people the habit of self-reliance and hard work. We have not tasted whether or not the yams from Trobriand Islands, sago from the Sepik, banana from Markham, kaukau from Hagen and fish and coconuts from the coast can be traded nationwide. The government must do direct investment to enabling infrastructure such as energy and transport

transformation. When I say direct investment, why don't we start rehabilitating our coconut, cocoa and coffee plantations?

Mr Deputy Speaker, before the extractive industries in our country were introduced our budget heavily relied on the agriculture sector. The Prime Minister has got very good policy directions and we need to just pick it up from there and drive it. We need to build our economy in the country and then look outside. We do not need to go outside of the country to borrow. We just need three interventional projects in the agricultural sector and you will see that the economy of our country will thrive. These are the springboards of our economy.

The government must now direct investment enabling infrastructure and we need to design the entry points in our government policies and we guide it. Our government can therefore, better utilize grants and concessional loans into those areas. For example, the state has backing rights in the mineral sector. If we design a policy approach to aggregate 30 per cent of our take in the mining sector we do not need to go out and bring a K2 company to come and refine our gold. We utilize our 30 per cent. The government of Papua New Guinea has enough money and we can build our own gold refinery and bullion in the country. We do not need to go outside, we have the provisions within our laws. Why don't we access the thirty per cent in the mineral sector and refine our own gold?

We have money in KPH, KCH and in the SOEs. Assign one of the entities in the SOE, maybe in the mining department to build our own gold refinery. We bring a K2 company and we have to finance them, by giving them K10 million to come build our refinery.

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We got to do away with that. In the forestry sector, there is a provision in the Forestry Act for state purchase option of 25 per cent of our raw material. We can downstream it through state marketing agencies, this is where our economy is. The economy is within our country, we have money within our country. We just need to touch it and press the right button.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. In the hydro carbon industry, we have an option of 24.5 per cent why don't we share it with the multi-national companies that we want our own oil and gas refinery on shore.

Mr Deputy Speaker, IMF and the World Bank through their structural adjustment programs around the world have held every country at ransom and they are still paying their loans today.

We make one mistake and this country is going to go into receivership and we are already making that mistake by taking that step. I debated during the budget time last year that Treasurer made a big mistake by increasing 70 per cent tax to the log export levies. This is one of the worst decisions the Treasurer has made by going to IMF and bringing this money on board. Trust me, today put this time down on your diary that Papua New Guinea will go into receivership by getting this K918 million or K3.25 billion. We will be at the hands of the IMF and World Bank and we will not move because they will control us. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are real words for us to sink it down into our hearts and minds that this will become a reality. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable member, your 10 minutes has lapsed. I will recognize the Governor for Western Highlands.

Mr WAI RAPA (Western Highlands) – Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I want to make some statements regarding the presentation of the Internal Security Minister. I want to thank the Minister for Police for a very good brief on some of the steps he is going to take to improve the police force in the country that we all support. So far, there are some improvements in the police. In my province, I have a PPC and police on the ground who are doing a lot of work and I want to thank you and your senior management and the Police Commissioner. This Government has budgeted so much money for the police to combat law and order in Papua New Guinea. For security companies in Papua New Guinea, this security industries act came into play in 2004 which took effect in 2006. As you all know, a number of members of Parliament own security companies and I myself own a security company. My security company was started in 1986, about 40 years ago. It is one of the oldest security companies in the country.

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I have been running this security firm for over 40 years now. It is one of the oldest firm in Papua New Guinea.

I always questioned myself about the *Security Industries Act*. From my understanding, it is a body that is supposed to regulate between the Department of Police and the security firms. As we all know, security firms in Papua New Guinea employs a very big workforce in the country.

The honourable Minister stated that we have got about 29,000 security guards in PNG, that is not correct. The security firms in Papua New Guinea have more than that number; about 50,000 to 60,000 security guards. The regulatory bodies do not have records of all of the security firms currently operating in the country.

The Security Industries Authority seriously need to look into this. This industry now comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Internal Affairs. Those security companies who are operating, pay so much fees for individual security guards. At the same time, the authority is not aware of some security firms operating or coming in to register their firms. The laws that will be passed by this Parliament will improve the security industry because that is a body that generates revenue.

I think it is good that the Minister identifies that. This body has to operate between the security firms already doing business in Papua New Guinea and those ones wanting to join the industry. We have a couple of foreign and local security firms that does it properly. Security firms are now working with the police to uphold law and order in PNG.

Along that line, I need to talk to the Minister and advise him on how best we can frame up some laws that can help all of us; the police and the security firms. Thank you for bringing these up because it has been there for so long. Someone passed this law but they never regulated it. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the Grievances be noted – agreed to.

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM (Telefomin – Minister for Works and Highways) – Mr Deputy Speaker, before I adjourn Parliament, let me thank all the honourable members for the last two weeks

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for the last two weeks you have been on time and all the members have been punctual. So far so good and today is the last day and with that I thank you all for your time because we are here to serve our people and our country.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 6 June at 2 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m.