

FOURTH DAY

Friday 4 August 2023

DRAFT HANSARD

Subject:

Page No:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS (INAVABUI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL) –STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SPEAKER 2

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS 2

Foreign Expertise and Prioritizing Missionaries2

GRIEVANCE DEBATE..... 16

ADJOURNMENT 35

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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KENNETH SEBEPMIN

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 4 August 2023

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

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

Sitting suspended.

The Acting Speaker again took the Chair at 10.55 a.m., and invited the Member for South Bougainville and Minister for Information and Communication Technology, **Honourable Timothy Masiu**, to say Prayers:

‘Dear Heavenly Father, yu bikpela God, yu gutpela God tumas, yu sindaun long sia king bilong yu long Heaven, pikinini bilong yu Lord Jisas em i sindaun long rait han bilong yu, na namel long mipela em presence bilong Holi Spirit. Papa tenkyu long dispela dei, tenkyu long olgeta blessings bilong yu stat long moning yet taim yu kirapim mipeal long slip inap i kamap nau, mipela i enjoyim dispela freshness bilong niupela dei na freshness bilong laip. Tenkyu long yu makim mipela olsem ol mandated lidas long kam long dispela important Haus we mipela i sindaun makim ol pipel bilong mipela insait long wanwan electortes long kantri bilong mipela Papua New Guinea. Tenkyu Papa long wok yu givim mipela long sevim ol pipel olsem mipela servants long sevim yu tu olsem God bilong mipela. Tudei Papa es mipela sindaun long dispela bung yu blesim dispela miting, yu blesim ol toktok i go kam, blesim Praim Minista bilong mipela, Dipiti Praim Minista, olgeta Membas bilong Parliament, Oposisen Lida, Dipiti Oposisen Lida, ol Ministas na olgeta pipel we ol i stap long chamber na ol harim long radio na lukluk long television long tudei. Papa wanem toktok mipela mekim em i mas klia long wei we ol pipel i andastendim na luksave that wanem dispela gavman na dispela leadership bilong tudei em i wokim long service i go long ol pipel bilong mipela long dispela kantri. Papa yu blesim Speaker, long special way wantaim Acting Speaker, em i sindaun long sia long dispela moning long special way. Ol husait i sik long namel long mipela Papa yu helpim mipela. Ol husait i gat court petitions, Papa yu helpim ol tu na ol husait i gat

ol issue we i nid long stretim Papa yu helpim mipela tu, tenkyu mipela no hait long yu Papa yu yet lukim olgeta smating mipela mekim, olsem tasol na mipela mas mekim leadership em i transparent na accountable long ai bilong yu pastaim na long ai bilong ol pipel bilon mipela. Tenkyu Papa, blesim dispela bung tete na mipela askim dispela prea long nem bilong Jisas, em i Lord, Masta na Saviour bilong mipela, Amen'.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS (INAVABUI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL) – STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SPEAKER

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Members I wish to acknowledge the presence of the Teachers and Students of Inavabui Primary School in Kairuku District, Central Province and Teachers and Students of Paradise High School, National Capital District. On behalf of the Parliament, I extend the visitors a warm welcome to Parliament.

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

02/04

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honorable members, yesterday the Chair recognized the member for Ialibu-Pangia on his supplementary. Honourable Member, I will not recognize your question as supplementary because this is a new day of Parliament, you will ask that as a fresh question to the relevant Minister.

Foreign Expertise and Prioritizing Missionaries

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister for Labour and Employment. I am very happy that the government has recognized a woman representing the women population in our country. At least we have a woman in the Cabinet.

So I would like to congratulate the Member for Rai-Coast on her appointment and her good enthusiasm that she has brought to create more employment for our people in the country. So I want to add my questions in relation to the other minister's on taking back the jobs from the foreigners which is good and I also want to encourage the Minister to support

the businesses in the country to be strong so that they can create more job opportunities for our people in the country.

With that Minister, you know that most of our business still need foreign technical and experts to help them in their jobs in our country. We've heard that many job permit applications had gone to your office and people are still waiting for feedbacks for many weeks and months. That has brought a lot of issues into the business sector and private sector where they need this technical assistance and expatriates to do the work and strengthen their businesses.

Can the Minister assure us that she will look into this and try to reduce the time to assess the qualification and make approvals? Reduce the time to at least two weeks or a month will be desirable. That is my first question.

My second question is about the struggles of missionaries that are working in the rural areas of our country where even our people refuses to go. These missionaries provide teaching services, pastoral services, and health care services. That is why I want the Minister to inform us about which priority she will give to make it easy for these missionaries who wish to come and help our communities and our people

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

Ms KESSY SAWANG – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, I am pleased with the Member for Ialibu-Pangia's questions. His first question was on the delay on the permits and second on giving priority to missionary workers that serve especially at the rural areas. I'm in charge of Labour and Employment and some of this function is under the watch of the Department of Immigration where it is with another minister at the moment.

So I will liaise with the minister in charge of immigration and work permit and in the subsequent days, I will give the answers for the questions asked by the Member for Ialibu-Pangia.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr JOHN KAUPA – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Before I ask the questions, I would like to thank the Minister for Bougainville Affairs and the Minister for Defence for going down to Bougainville with their defence force team.

03/04

Mr Acting Speaker, that is one historical humanitarian mission which they accomplished, so on behalf of all of us on this Floor of Parliament and the country as a whole.

My question is directed to the Treasurer and the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance to take.

The BSP Bank declared a K1 billion profit in 2022 but yet the services that they are providing is not to standards, their interest rates are really high so what are we doing as a government?

Because, when I deposit a K500 into my bank account after six months its gone so I am asking myself how are they declared K1 billion net profit but where did it all go? Where are their source of income? Is it from the capital investment that they invest from our small people, the SMEs and MSMEs?

The rates, every time when a cheques is dishonored, the drawer pays K50 and the payee also pays a K50 as dishonored fees.

Mr Acting Speaker, from my point of view this bank is not serving the interest of the small business people in our country.

When are they going to provide affordable, convenient bank service that serves all of us our interests?

And also about 90 per cent of our people do not have access to the BSP Bank. the Bank of Papua New Guinea Financial Analysis and Supervisory Unit last year, updated that the directors got big roles, can we be more detailed and provide the names of these directors who are applying for big sums of loans from the small people

The unaccounted money in the bank for the SMEs about K12 billion as of 2020, maybe they got scared to go to the banks or the they are afraid of the fees. Are we going to set another bank to give the SMEs and MSMEs people a fair chance of making money and that unaccounted cash has to be banked?

So, those are the difficulties that normal Papua New Guineans are facing.

Are we going to setup an Independent Inquiry, led by the Bank of Papua New Guinea to investigate BSP?

Those are my three questions and that's for the national interest, Acting Speaker.

04/04

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I want to thank the honourable member for his interest with the Bank South Pacific and how our government can continue to help our people trading and especially our smaller people that live in the rural areas. Can I immediately assure the honourable member and members of this House that our Government acknowledges the frustrations that are faced by customers of all of our commercial banks not just the BSP, over high interest rates that he's concern with,

Mr Acting Speaker, despite our government being the largest shareholder of the Bank of South Pacific, with about a total of 24 per cent equity and despite the government being BSP's largest customer by far, we do not have direct control of the Bank of South Pacific and we don't even have representation on its Board of Directors as we should have. So as a customer of the bank we certainly understand these frustrations.

I want to also add and explain that monetary policy can have a direct influence on interest rates through an instrument we call the Kina Facility Rate (KFR), but monetary policy authority was taken away from the Minister of Treasury about 22 or 23 years ago and given back to the Bank of Papua New Guinea back in 2001, and this is an important explanation. So together with those reforms in that year the Central Bank became an independent organization that no longer directly reported to the Minister for Treasury.

So unfortunately our Government has no direct control over the commercial banks including BSP that would allow directives to control interest rates and even bank fees that commercial banks like BSP charge today and I know the answer is very frustrating especially given the backdrop of a record K1 billion plus profit last year. But I would be pleased to continue advocating for the concerns you have raised.

In relation to your second question on allegations that board members have been giving themselves very large loans and this is especially frustrating for all of us in this House and our people given that some 90 per cent of our population still don't have access to a bank account therefore don't have access to loans. I do recall some statements issued by FASU back in 2021 on allegations related to certain breaches of our anti money laundering and counter terrorism financing laws by the Bank of South Pacific and can I say this very important that this process is independent and there is no interference by Government and that FASU is able to continue its work in this particular area.

At the time, if I recall correctly, in a public statement I said I was pleased with the measured and detailed reports set out by FASU and I have yet to receive the outcomes of

those investigations. So I will follow up with the Central Bank and request a detailed brief as you require and have requested. Including those concerns that certain loans were made to members of the Board of Directors and companies they own and hopefully I'll be able to table them as soon as a practical.

05/04

On your last question regarding any plans for new banks, I will refer that question to the appropriate minister with oversight. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr JOSEPH LELANG – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My series of questions are directed to the Prime Minister. Before I ask my questions, I must commend the Prime Minister for admitting something that many of us have been observing with concern that our economy is not creating new jobs. It is by recognising a problem, then we can start to look for solutions. Yesterday, we heard from the Minister for Labour and Immigration that we have an employment crisis in the country.

Mr Acting Speaker, one of the major contributing factor to this problem, is the rural-urban migration that has been steadily building up over the last two decades or so. Many of our people from rural areas are moving into towns and cities with very little education or skills, but are looking for a better life. The settlements are over-crowded, there is a rise in homelessness with families living in drains, behind shops and supermarkets, and the number of street kids and beggars are on the rise.

Many of our people that came through the rural-urban migration tend to resolve to stealing and undertaking illegal activities, like prostitution and a life of crime just to survive because the 'wantok' system is no longer effective as a social safety net. They cannot return back to their villages or provinces. Some of those that migrated to towns, urban centres and cities are trouble makers. They are criminals who escape arrests and community reprisals in their home provinces or districts. And when you have this mix bag of people migrating into towns and cities, social tensions and law and order problems are prone to escalate.

The Governor of Central Province has raised concerns over the social impacts of the road link from Southern Highlands to Kikori and Port Moresby, and from Central Province to Milne Bay, and I am sure that other governors are also concerned about the social implications, particularly of the rural-urban migration.

Those that migrated into towns, sometimes do not respect the cultural values, customs and the way of life of the traditional owners of the land in which the towns and cities are built on, or where the road corridors are passing through. The problems of land grabbing, social tensions, fighting and murders have escalated in the recent past.

The problems are getting worse and the Police are overwhelmed. In fact, the Police Commissioner has come out publicly asking if the *Vagrancy Act* can be re-introduced to control movement of people.

Mr Acting Speaker, my series of questions to the Prime Minister are;

(1) Would the Prime Minister consider introducing the *Vagrancy Act*? And if not, what are your plans to deal with the current rise in lawlessness that is caused by the rural-urban migration?

(2) Does the Prime Minister have any plans to create or target employment opportunities, particularly in the urban areas and among the urban youths?

(3) Does your government have any plans to protect and safeguard the cultures, customary practices and values from being deteriorated by the influx of people migrating from other provinces, who will not only come in search of opportunities and the bright city lights, but also bring with them their attitude and way of life and impose them on communities and places where they settle?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, and I would like to also acknowledge the questions from the Opposition Leader.

06/04

He is very much qualified to ask this sort of questions and I just want to appreciate the questions that he put to us but before having said this, let me acknowledge the students. Our children who are in the public gallery with us. Thank you for their presence. We are in this work, hopefully the work we do can culminate in passing a better country that you'll be living on as you are in your life going forward. This is raised by the Opposition leader is a contemporary concern and the issues that face our country in fact in our Government Caucus this morning.

Mr Acting Speaker, we do apologise for coming in late but the conversation was very much centred around these issues the Opposition leader has raised. We on this side of the House, though we have big numbers, all the leaders on my side are never silent in our own Government Caucus. They have raised these strong issues, matters relating to law and order, matters relating to employment, matters relating to the economy, matters relating to the encroaching on another tribe's or another person's rights. We here, although over a hundred in numbers we have, we have never bought their silence. They address these issues Mr Acting Speaker, and we arrived late in the Chambers because those issues were being discussed also in our Government Caucus. On the issue of Vagrancy Act Mr Acting Speaker, the law is in place. Police have been tasked to look into this aspect of the law and not only the Vagrancy Act but every other law we have. We have laws in our country but unfortunately, policing of these laws has fallen short. Policing of these laws have fallen short over many years and we blame police but we also blame society and blame ourselves and Government today and the past also in not consistently ramping up support to the full law and justice sector – Police, Magisterial Services and Judiciary. As I was saying the other time, we acknowledge the past mistakes but we have to correct today and going forward into the future to secure that safety we want for our people. And so, Vagrancy Act as well as other sister laws that administer and provide the framework that should govern our safety are well keep is being looked at by the Police. The police have been tasked as well as the Minister for Justice has also been tasked to look into this in totality. Deputy Prime Minister as Chairman of the Social Sector Ministers has been working hard to put a hand on this matter so there's some progress on this. Let me report to this House through this question, Mr Acting Speaker, that in the judiciary space we looking at ramping up the judiciary and there's a reform going on right now based on recommendation by the judiciary and a three tier higher court system separating the national court and elevating the supreme court to be on its own higher in planting an appeals court in between and the present AG is working very hard recruit in 20 more new judges to clear up the back log that is happening in our system because of limited number of judges. And the Judges that we want to bring in are not just judges found from within, with respect to senior lawyers we have in our country, if they are available good, but we want to look at the judges from outside and similar judiciaries we have in the region and further abroad in the Commonwealth. We are looking at 20 more new judges to come in and hopefully by the time we are progressing this year and next year the separation between the lower court, higher courts to take place – National court on its own, Supreme court on its own and Appeals court

that comes in and we start to ensure that the court structure is in place. Magisterial services linking up to the higher courts. Mr Acting Speaker, I am saying this simply because all of these needs to be looked at in totality. You cannot just ramp up police and to ensure that they police the vagrancy act and they police the other laws that govern the upkeep of the law and order. Law breakers ultimately at the end of the day or every day going forward, law breakers must go into the prosecutions. At the moment the whole law and justice sector systems is functioning but not functioning to maximum throttle or functioning effectively.

07/04

resource lacking inappropriate structures that we are carrying is fit for the economy and the country in the 1970s, 1980s and maybe early 1990s.

Today, we have a population that is above 10 million and the employment space has not improved in a big space. Super majority of our youths who leaves schools at all levels; high schools or at the colleges, are still do not have adequate meaningful employment and engagements. And so, that has left room for lawlessness to creep amongst us.

That I want to assure this House through this question. Whilst, we look at the *Vagrancy Act*, we want to assure the Opposition Leader that the entire full gamut of the Law and Justice Sector space have been looked upon to ensure. We don't want to have a piecemeal approach but a holistic approach that secures the framework of law enforcement, policing and law up keep in our country, not just for today but going forward.

I also want to indicate that to the youths in our society. Your government has not been silent, the issues of unemployment has been recognized upfront since we took office in 2019. For instance, in my public engagements when I met a noble group of Papua New Guineans emerging call the Think Tank. Today, it has been depleted many of those, they haven't runaway but now become an empty tank of one or two loud march in society.

Mr Acting Speaker, when I have visited them, I told them we have no free money to handout. They gave me a submission of K2 million, I did indicate to them that I can pick this but we have no free money to handout. You work and earn the money.

Government at that time, I committed K200 million every year to SME through the lenders, we have like the banks. We've stick to our side of the bargain, we have put unfailing in 2020, K200,000 million distributed to NDB and BSP. Because they were lending and willing to partner with us in concessional lending in the country below six per cent long term period.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is to ensure that those out there in the society who want to participate in growing the economy, because we saw from there and then we cannot talk about development if we do not grow the economy base. Government just can't be the biggest spender in the economy. The economy base must be broadened, bigger, diversified and people must run with growing the economy. Not paper pushes in Waigani.

For instances; those who have depleted K230 million. The National Alliance led Government set for agriculture and many other government allocations that has been depleted off by paper pushes in Waigani. Like, those who have been submitting K3 million that I refused. That has no merit whatsoever, and that is not hanged for everybody benefit except one or two.

Mr Acting Speaker, growing the economy, getting our people engaged and all sectors is the way to go for us. Our Budget since 2020, has been structured in a way to grow the economy.

Mr Acting Speaker, look at the Connect PNG Program, is about opening up all parts of our country so that agriculture, fishery and forestry potential can be unlocked.

But, Mr Acting Speaker, in between the 300 contractors we managing right across at the district, province, and at the National Government.

Mr Acting Speaker, that 300 contractors if you calculate, you know as a Chairman of your own DDA. You have a contractor running at a district level, they employ minimum possible at 50 person per contract. Do your simple mathematics, if 50 person per contract is engaged that's a 15,000 people engaged by the government policy intervention through that allocation space.

Mr Acting Speaker, I'm just trying to give you an indication to summarize. Long term employment creation is this Government focus and any government that come after will be reminded that employment creation must be made. Medium Term Plan that we have mounted very recently focuses to create one million new jobs.

08/04

Of course we are focus on delivering Papua LNG construction, which is in operation now, we are also focusing on delivering Porgera restart-up and has re-employed 1500 employees back in Porgera and we are focusing on ensuring that P'nyang construction and development in operation followed by Papua LNG and Wafi-Golpu.

But, Mr Acting Speaker, guess what? Even if the five projects we are running today by my government; Papua LNG, P'nyang, Wafi-Golpu and Porgera re-start and Pasca amongst others that will come on.

Mr Acting Speaker and the country, can I tell you all something these five projects will not be employing the one million people. These five projects maximum will employ possibly 15,000 only, our universities and colleges are not producing only five thousand to six thousand a year. They are producing over 30 thousand young graduates out into the labour force every year and we need to go big.

That's why I have been a missionary in advocating agricultural rural base economy, because easily 70 per cent of our families are still in the rural enclaves and they already own land. The Connect PNG will unbundle the land for them and the lending programs we have they can come in and work in the agriculture, tourisms, downstream forestry and the fisheries sector that we looking on.

Mr Acting Speaker, this question deserves a full respond I don't want to dilute the question time for other leaders in the answer that. Maybe I should take this question and reconsider because it deserves a good answer and the country must be assured that we are sensitive to this issue of lawlessness as a result of unengaged youth. When we put into place program all ministers in various sectors that deals with the program to engage our youths are working.

Mr Acting Speaker, if you don't mind, I can reserve a right to deliver a full response to his questions, which is a very good and fundamental question and that's the reason why this Government or any governments should exist. I want to give assurance as Connect PNG opens up that should not engross onto other custom, culture and people.

I think the Minister for National Planning did inform very well yesterday regarding Lae in Morobe Province. The landowner rights are preserved in Lae, Morobe Province has been interfacing with Highlands for the last 48 years and will be for the rest of the time we live on planet earth, they have co-existed in the last 48 years.

The rights of our traditional and indigenous people are pre-served in law and its just us not enforcing the law. And the conversation of considering *Vagrancy Act* and enforcement of law is something that we are working upon so when roads are open up the rights of indigenous people and landowners and every other Papua New Guineans engrossed as to work to ensure we modernize and intergrade our economy.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want to reserve my right to re-look into his questions and indicate to the Opposition, this House and the country what we are doing in respect to opening up PNG by growing the economy, creating employment and keeping our country safe from lawlessness.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr TABOI YOTO – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker for recognizing the people of Western Province. I also want to welcome the students and their teachers to Parliament, who are present in the Public Gallery.

I want to direct my questions to the Minister for State Enterprises, before I ask my question, I want to thank the National Government for supporting my initiatives to revive the township of Daru, as I speak work is in progress.

My questions are in relation to the initiatives I am undertaking to revive the township of Daru. For the last 20 years or so, the supply of power has been a major issue on my Island and we have been working tirelessly to bring light on the Island.

Just recently there was an installment of one megawatt power generator being donated by the Australian Government and through our partnership with PNG STV.

09/04

Now the total power supply at the island is three Mega Watt which means we have enough power on the island to supply the little town.

Unfortunately, last year PNG Power with the Southside DDA signed a power purchase agreement and we the Provincial Government put in money to buy diesel fuel when PNG Power has no fuel we'll buy and refuel.

Unfortunately, the town is still blackout, so I want to ask the Minister we have a case in point at Kiunga where we provide power ourselves where we don't experience many blackouts.

At the moment we are increasing our power supply from the town up to the highway that is going to be sealed. From our experience we feel that we can manage our power by ourselves. That is why want to ask the Minister, does the National Government has some plans to give back power supply to the Provincial Government to own and manage or not. That is my first question.

My second question is why after we signed the PP agreement with PNG Power and my town is still in blackout? These two questions I want you to answer for the benefit of the people of Western province especially my people from Daru Island.

Thank you.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Mr Acting Speaker, I want thank the Governor for Western Province for this question, yes in the case of Daru it is true that with the help of both DEFAT and PNG SVT and together with PNG Power they were to come up with an arrangement where our people Daru can continue to enjoy uninterrupted power supply from their own.

There were some issues regarding financial modeling and PNG power's own technical requirement that had to be met by those two gensets providers. All of those I'm told have been resolved in fact the last remaining information that was required of PNG SVT was provided to PNG Power and PNG Power are now working on it and we expect to finalize everything within the next four weeks and the town of Daru can then enjoy unrestricted power access.

In relation to the other issue, it's an issue that has been raised on many occasion by our Governors and leaders from many provinces that is a decision that has to be taken by the Government of the day. As to whether sometime down the path we will look at the impotency of whether we can allow Provincial Governments to be in charge of their own power requirements so that is the decision that will be made by the Government.

Eventually, but at this state we are looking at options, our focus at this state is to fix the problems and see what we can do with the limited time frame that we have and hopefully later on when things are stabilized across the country we will then look at that issue. But again I point out that for most of the centers that are relying on diesel, the price of diesel cannot be controlled by any government of the day and we still have ongoing issues with getting fuel across some of the more remote areas and then trying to provide power and making money at the same time.

Thanks once again to the good Governor for Western Province.

Mr MARSH NAREWEC – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for recognizing the people of Wau-Waria once again.

Mr Acting Speaker my question without notice is directed to our Deputy Prime Minister, Member for Lae and Minister for Lands.

Mr Acting Speaker the Lands Department gives land which it has no many state lands and it gives so many leases. Agriculture lease, Urban Development lease, Residential Lease. All sorts of lease it gives to our people to make business or other activities on the land.

10/04

Also MRA and the Minister for Mining can take not of this question. MRA gives Mining Lease, Expiration License, Alluvial Mining Lease and all these things.

If there is an area that has an existing agriculture lease or urban development lease in place, can MRA be able to give a mining lease over it?

I am not sure but there must have been court decision that have been made over State Land, where the land was given back to the Customary Landowners because the Customary landowners are telling us that the court has already made decisions and the state has given back their land. But when we checked with Department of Lands it states that the land is still under the State. So who is responsible for updating the information? the Court or The Department of Lands or the Customary Landowners so that there is clear information that we can access easily. Because we are trying to develop the land and the customary landowners are telling us that the court has already made the decision and handed back the land.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want the Minister for Lands to tell us who is responsible for updating the land files in his department?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr JOHN ROSSO – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker and thank you also to the Member for Wau-Waria for asking these important questions to clarify some issues. I would also like to take this time to acknowledge the young children in the Public Gallery today, thank you.

Okay for the first question about the agriculture lease and the other leases, all the land if it has one lease for it than that will be the only existing lease for that land. If there is an agriculture lease that is already existing, they cannot put a mining lease because the agriculture lease must be revoked first before they issue the mining lease over that same land.

The other question on court cases, normally when we go to court a judgement is handed down and the lawyer that is representing them must send copies of the judgment to respective departments and the other parties that go to court so that they can update their

records. This is because we do not have Lands officers that attend the courts to get every judgement that is decided on.

I would advise on this particular case that when there is a judgment handed down, the lawyer responsible must right to the relevant department with attached court documents and the court decision so that the Department of Lands can use this to update their files.

I hope that clarifies the questions of the good Member for Wau-Waria, thank you.

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. My question is directed to the Honourable Minister for Justice and Attorney-General to answer and if the Minister for Mining can take note

11/04

Minister, through you Acting Speaker, there is talk for deep seabed mining to commence again. Some of us in the coastal areas we don't want seabed mining to come back. We have removed Nautilus Mining some years ago and now they are talking about coming back again. My question to the Attorney General through you Acting Minister, is whether he would request the State Solicitor to go through that agreement. Which we have been informed, that the previous agreement between Nautilus Mining and the State and to go through the relevant clauses that tends to preserve the existence of this agreement. And if the State Solicitor could advise the Minister for Justice in appropriate language for that proposed agreement or proposed mining activities to just forget the mining and not to entertain the idea. Because we don't want seabed mining to start again. They started in solwara one, solwara two was there for them and we opposed it with a very qualified international scientific advisor against sea bed mining. That's my question I think that is the way to deal with this proposed seabed mining again, just forget about it. Thank you Mr Acting Speaker

Mr PILA NININGI – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker and thankyou to the Member for Rabaul Dr Allan Marat for your question.

In fact, this morning I directed or requested the Secretary to provide advice regarding this matter and I would like to place this question on the notice paper and I will certainly come back to Parliament and answer this question. Thank you

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Mr POWES PARKOP (NCD)– Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for giving me a chance to grievance debate.

I have so many grievances but I don't want to speak about that at the moment. Mr Acting Speaker, today I will speak more about reflection on our journey and our country going forward. We will celebrate our 50 years of independence in two years' time so Mr Acting Speaker and honourable members of the House and people of this nation hearing or listening to this sitting. It is time for us to all reflect on how we have come through this journey, some things we have achieved and done well. Some under achievement, some perhaps failure. It's time for us to reflect so that we the leaders in a privileged position holding this privilege to be in leadership in Parliament leading our people going to 50 years we try to adjust ourselves and change and think about how we will leave a better legacy or a better story. So today I would like to continue in the grievance debate in that respect.

Mr Acting Speaker, I think our stories in our country. some are good some are not so good. Some we have failed; some we have under achieved too. But the important thing is we have come to 48 years now and we will be 50 years soon.

12/04

We wish we can just press a button and everything will appear, but that is not the reality. The reality of life is that, only a few things are easy, but most are hard. Our people are harsh on us and we have to be harsh on ourselves and push to be better because we are privileged to be members of Parliament.

I am privileged that this year will be my 16 years as a Member of Parliament. I try to do my best by seizing the opportunity and privilege that I have to do what I can, in the time that I have. We won't be here as members of Parliament forever, so, when we have the privilege of being here, let us maximise it and contribute to the good of country and our people.

So, reflecting on these 48 years' journey, we have done exceptionally well in some areas of our country, for instance, we have excelled in the production of human resources. We have doctors, pilots, engineers and accountants that are qualified to work anywhere in the world. For instance, some of our pilots are flying planes of the United Arab Emirates. We have done well in that respect and have continued to produce high quality world class

professionals. That is a big achievement for our country and we should aim to double the size of our human resources.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do not know if we are doing well or not in the sports sector of our country. There are a lot of international sports tournaments but I am not sure if our teams are qualified to participate or not. We have the FIFA Women's World Cup, but our team lost to Panama so we dropped out. Our netball team, PNG Pepes was not qualified to participate in the Netball World Cup in South Africa. But on the positive side, our cricket team is qualified to compete in the 2024 T20 World Cup. For rugby, what is our status now?

Mr Acting Speaker, for sports, we are balancing it out, but today, I want to focus on business. After 48 years, I have seen that —

Mr Kansol Harwai Kamdaru — Point of Order! The Governor is still talking but I am seeing members of Parliament walking out of the Chamber. Can we sit down and listen to the grievance debates? We are leaders and we are supposed to be listening to the grievances that are being raised. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER — Honourable Governor, before you any statement, I would like to acknowledge the point of order raised by the Member for Middle-Ramu. Honourable Members, I have raised this many times that during grievance debate, I would like all members of Parliament, especially the ministers, to stay back and take note of what the other members have raised because it is an important time when members raised grievance on important issues.

Honourable Member, your point of order is in order. Honourable Governor, you have five more minutes to complete your grievance.

Mr POWES PARKOP — Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. The ministers should not be leaving because when it was their turn to speak, we sat and listened to them. I will continue with my reflections. I have so many grievances to complain about, but some issues can be solved when talking directly to ministers responsible because an outcome is more important than us making a statement on the Floor of Parliament.

Sometimes we go and see our colleague leaders and solve thing and get things going so today I am more focused on reflection. So, Mr Acting Speaker, I think one big area where I see us under achieving is in the area of business. For 48 years if you look at the area of economy, as team leaders of our country, the Prime Minister as well, we are not participating to a large extent in the economy in terms of major part of the economy. You look at the big sector of the economy in mining and oil and gas, its still largely foreign owned and controlled. When you come to the medium sector too, its still foreign owned and controlled. Where are our people? This is a problem that us leaders have to look into. We are advanced in some areas in professions such as engineering and so forth, we are advanced in sports, we build new infrastructures but in the area of economy which is very important, we are failed one thing. So, we must think about how we can solve this big failure in our country. Our people now continue to sell betelnut on the streets and I am scolding them so if you see it, we are still in the markets. I am not saying that its wrong to market but we need to train in that area the Primary sector in vegetables which is our culture and our way of life. We don't need an expert to come and teach us this but we need to progress into the medium and bigger sector too as well. Mr Acting Speaker, if we look back at our journey of 48 years now, its not like our government does not support our people. Numerous times we come here and maybe the government has not given money. We've been giving support after support to our people. Mr Acting Speaker, if you look back for example during our former Governor's time, former Prime Minister Paias Wingti, he started a scheme called Government Guarantee Scheme. If you want to so business, go to the bank, get a loan and if you don't repay the loan, the Government will repay it for you. Guess what happened during that time? Our people went and got loans, almost 90 per cent failed to repay their debts, government has to pay it so what happened was Prime Minister Wingti said to cut it off. We also had the Stret Pasin Stoa. Our people also went into this scheme Stret Pasin Stoa. They got trained to run trade stores. Many of them were doing well. When I came to Port Moresby in the 70s it was full of all these Stret Pasin Stoa. Gerehu, Waigani and even Sogeri had a Stret Pasin Stoa. Now they are no longer existing because we didn't train our people to save and invest. This is a problem. We have reserved business now and you keep on talking about reserved business. That reserved business existed in the 80s and 90s and our people did not take advantage of it and IMF came and said we have to open up the economy and remove those control mechanisms where it

stops open economy. So, we opened it up. Before that we also had cooperative societies which I will also talk about. Thank you, Governor, for Morobe.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your ten minutes has lapsed. I can't extend by giving any grace because I know my Governor for Morobe will raise a point of order. So, I'll allow now the Governor for Morobe to speak for ten minutes, not more than ten minutes.

Mr LUTHER WENGE (Morobe) – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for granting me leave to speak on the grievance debate in this Floor of the Parliament.

14/04

Mr Acting Speaker, I was going to ask a series of questions to the Minister for Mining in relation to the Hidden Valley Mine, but that opportunity didn't come. So, I 'm going to raise this matter in a form of grievance debate to the Minister and I will ask the Prime Minister to take note of what I'm going to express.

Mr Acting Speaker, the agreement for the Hidden Valley mine was signed in 2001, when I was the Governor of the Morobe Province. And it came into operation in 2009, when the commencement of the mining was granted.

Mr Acting Speaker, the agreement that we've signed in 2005 and I was the signatory. In the terms of the agreement and among other things that agreement was supposed to be renewed after every three years. That's commencing from the operation of the mine which came into existence in 2009.

Mr Acting Speaker, and then after every three years there should be the renewal of Hidden Valley mine. And the renewal of the mining required the National Government team and the provincial government, the land owners and developer to get together and to renew the terms of the agreement that was signed for the operation of the mine.

And unfortunately, Mr Acting Speaker, that has never eventuated, supposed to be done in 2012. The first renewal should have taken place as required by the agreement that after every three years, it should be renewed.

Mr Acting Speaker, so from 2009 until now almost 12 years have expired and almost four times that the terms of that agreement should be renewed as never been undertaken for review.

Mr Acting Speaker, I think that's the worst in the sense that the agreement, agreed by the parties to be renewed after every three years has never been taken place. And thanks to the Minister for Mining for listening and the Prime Minister as well.

The signatories to the mining are peoples that I have already mentioned and in the terms of the agreement there should be certain benefits that should be derived from the existence of that agreement. Unfortunately, it hasn't happened. For instance; the agreement required that the work in the mining, the priority should be given to the people who come from the vicinity of the mining area. In the event that none of the people who come from the vicinity of the mining area is not able to provide, then it should be extended to the people of Bulolo.

If none of the people in the Bulolo are not able to do whatever that is required then, it should be extended to the people of Morobe. If none of the Morobe's are unable to do it, then to Papua New Guinea and then extend to the international community.

Unfortunately, Mr Acting Speaker, that has never been taken place and in relation to other social services that was required to be provided from the money that is generated from the mine to be utilized to provide such services. Electrical services, as now Members of Parliament are complaining about but I'm not going to talk for Papua New Guinea, but direct for the mining area in Bulolo electorate.

15/04

The electoral services, which was supposed to be provided, as a social and medical services, etc, has never been provided. In accordance with that agreement that we signed in 2005, and came into operation in 2009; many of those agreements, what was in the agreement has never been implemented.

Now, the foreign companies, NKW, which is the land owner's company, in relation to spin-offs, is supposed to be engaged to perform for the benefit of the shareholders, consistent with the agreement that we had signed. Mr. Acting Speaker, that has never been done.

Mr. Minister for mines, and the Prime Minister, we cannot do this. We cannot do this. I'm not quite sure about any other agreements in relation to mining, or in relation to other natural exploitation of other resources in this country, that you have signed.

I am not sure whether this has been done or not. If it's not been done, in the sense that those agreements that have been signed has not been complied, then this is a very serious matter.

Prime Minister, I was listening to your statement that you delivered yesterday, in relation to the proceed that we make from the mineral resources, or natural resources, that should be benefited by the land owners, and the provincial government. I heard your statement quite clearly yesterday, and that's a way forward; and that could be generated by virtue of the agreements like this that we have signed.

Mr. Acting Speaker, and for the Hidden Valley, almost 12 years have gone, and the parties have not come together to negotiate, to review, and it's well over maturity for review; 12 years, it's a long time, and I will ask your humble wisdom and mercy, Mr. Minister for Mines, and the Honourable the Prime Minister, to consider this, and call a time that we have to meet.

The Office of the Governor for Morobe Province is ready, and the landowners are ready, and in the companies which derive from that mining are ready to negotiate, and we should negotiate.

And Mr. Acting Speaker, if there's anything like that happening in this country, I think we're doing grossly injustice to our citizens, and I think we need to make sure that the parties must return to renewal.

The honour Mr. Acting Speaker, is with the government; and the government is benefiting a lot there by way of tax and by equity, all of those things, and then of course the land of the developers, but I will not put the blame on the developers. The government is there, Mr. Acting Speaker, to protect the interest, to protect the interest at the highest level of the land owners, and of the provincial government, and of the government itself, Mr. Acting Speaker, and the people of this country.

Mr. Prime Minister, I was very thankful that the employment is one of the issues that can be created by mining, and I'm sure when we go back to negotiate on the terms of the Eden Valley Mine, that issue will be addressed. More exploration is taking place in that mining area, so Hidden Valley is not going to die. There will be new minerals exploited, found, and economically viable for mining.

16/04

And so, with the greatest respect, Prime Minister and the Minister for Mining, please, can we come to the table? The leadership is right. The landowners are conditioned. They're ready for it. And I'm sure you should be conditioned to come to the table. We do it for the interest of this country. Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr ALLAN BIRD (East Sepik) —Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. Mr Acting Speaker, my grievance today is in relation to the long-term strategic direction of our country. This week, I had the opportunity to meet with people who had done a study of the power situation in East Sepik, and the work that it would require to get the infrastructure back up and running so that it could sufficiently service my people.

The thing I learned was that, since that infrastructure was built 50 years ago, there was never any attempt by the responsible authority to maintain it or to build on it, or even to extend it to service people who could have been paying customers within the vicinity of the town and our other town of Maprik.

So, I found out that in order to build or to provide energy to East Sepik, the entire infrastructure would have to be rebuilt at a cost of just over K100 million. I was quite surprised. I was even more surprised to learn that there was, in fact, very little investment over the past 50 years to upgrade the infrastructure.

And as I began to speak to these people, they had done other studies across Papua New Guinea and almost every single town, I think including Port Moresby, is in the same situation. So, all of these investments in the energy sector were done during the colonial government.

Every subsequent Papua New Guinean government had not upgraded the infrastructure to the point where now, and I have been asking many questions of the minister in some respects, perhaps unfairly, because he is the incumbent minister.

I was quite surprised to learn that this problem had accumulated over the last 50 years and nobody in Papua New Guinea took any notice of it. We just left it there, just like an old village house which has rotted away and nobody bothered to maintain it. Now, this is unacceptable, Mr Acting Speaker. We cannot run a country where we allow our infrastructure to continually degrade without anyone paying attention to it.

We recently launched our MTDP 4, and I'm wondering to myself, how much attention are we paying to maintaining existing infrastructure? And I've just given us an example of our energy infrastructure.

How many of our wharves are totally degraded? I know the Wewak wharf is degraded, and that was built by the Australian Government. We just recently replaced our hospital. That previous one was built by the Australian Colonial Administration.

And as I use the example of East Sepik, I wonder how many other provinces are in the same boat that we are in. And I wonder if the level of neglect, and I don't want to blame anyone, I just want to accept that this is where we are.

We've discussed law and order constantly on the floor, and again, I want to sort of take a look at it and say perhaps that's the same thing we've done with law and order. We've neglected it for so long, it is now piled up onto this Parliament.

I heard this morning the discussion over jobs, and that's something that we've been talking about for a while. I wonder how long we have neglected that. And I come back, and I wonder about our strategic focus, not just as a government.

17/04

And I don't want to crucify the Executive Arm of the Government. I think the failure is across all three arms. We're just not paying attention. And then that begs the question, whose job is it to pay attention to this issue? Is it the Executive Government? Is it the Parliament? Or is it the Judiciary? Which arm of government is supposed to take responsibility over this?

Where does the vision come from to then direct the rest of the mechanisms of State to focus? And as we do that, I hear the discussions around private sector and government. And I'm beginning to wonder to myself; are we as government crowding out the private sector? Where is the space for the private sector? Is the private sector limited to being a client to the State, as opposed to being a partner to the state?

I see private sector that is doing very well are those in the private sector that are lining up to get government contracts. The other part of the private sector; those who are not lining up to get government contracts, well, they're struggling. But the ones who are getting government contracts, I note in the last Parliament, they were doing very well. And I note in this Parliament, they're still doing very well.

What about the rest of the private sector, those that actually service our people and do not apply for a single government contract? Those that are, for example, that are in the Forestry sector. What incentives are we going to place in the budget so that we can make it more attractive for them to go downstream? Have we incorporated any of that into our medium-term planning? If we haven't, is there opportunity for us to amend it so that we build financial incentives because we want the jobs?

We have the resource, which is the Forestry sector. We have the resource, which is the tuna. Mind you, US\$7 billion worth of tuna is taken out of our waters every year. How much are we investing? What are the incentives we are providing to the private sector that is in the tuna sector so that more of that US\$7 billion is K28 billion.

Ladies and gentlemen of this Honourable House. That's not a small number. That's a number that should excite all of us. That's more money than what we are getting out of LNG and Mining.

But our discussions tend to be centred and focused around the non-renewable sector. Yet there is still tuna. We have 18 per cent of the world's tuna in our waters. How much are we investing there? What plans do we have?

And relevant ministers who might be listening in, I'm not criticizing you. I am simply recognizing something that I believe we have neglected as a country over time. And I am drawing the line between the energy sector. I don't even want to go to roads yet because our roads are collapsing as we build new ones.

And again, it comes back to the issue of, are we paying attention? Is it a strategic focus? Who is responsible for it? So, I'm just sharing this with all of you because I was quite stunned to find out.

And for me personally, I worked in the health sector in my province. And I understood what had happened there. I am now being forced to deal with the energy sector in my province. And suddenly I realize it is a 50-to-60-year problem. It didn't just happen yesterday.

So, I'm sharing with all of you fellow leaders because my wisdom is limited in how we resolve this issue going forward. It is essentially an appeal to all of you. And it is an appeal to the intelligentsia within our country to say, and I'm appealing to the private sector.

One of the things that I am disappointed with is that if we created the right conditions for private sector, for every kina the government invests, the private sector can invest K10. But because we crowd them out, the private sector's K10 is not available to us. The energy of the private sector is not brought to bear on our problems. Because we think the State can do everything.

And I find that it is something we need to consider. It is something that we need to deal with. And it is an opportunity that is missing. Just like we squeeze our women out of our development agenda, not by design, but by default.

18/04

Everybody that is within this country, and not only that, we have to stop being afraid of foreigners and foreign investment. We have to become friendly to investment, we have to decide if we want the jobs, if we want the economy or do we want to chase everybody away. Those decisions, that leadership needs to be made by those of us who sit on this Floor. And once again this is me appealing because of something I just learnt recently. Mr Acting Speaker, I thank the House.

Mr WAKE GOI (Jimi) – Thank you Acting Speaker. I would like to debate about two points.

I am happy that most leaders have invested a lot in their towns and took time to beautify their towns and make it look nice and clean and attractive. There is a saying that when your home is not clean or nice, people who live in these homes are not clean or nice. You have to live in a clean and nice environment so that you will also feel good about yourself. This is the first point, I have another point to raise and I should finish in five minutes' time.

We must also encourage our green gold mining, the coffee plantations, cocoa, copra and forestry. We need to put in more money into this sector to help it grow. With the mining sector we have four to five projects coming up in the next months and in the next few years but we need to encourage the agriculture sector in the forms of our plantations, need to come back and we can put a good amount of money so that the minimum wages or coffee pickers, cocoa pickers can be happy and boost the country revenue collection can come from the non-renewable resource and cash crops from the garden produce.

We can also look into this and look for markets to sell their produce and make the channel of selling their products easier. In some towns people buy wholesale from the farmers and then they go and sell at the markets. In this way the farmers can sell quickly and go and the resellers can sell their produce at a marked up price and then go home that is my personal view.

Thank you for coming up with the Connect PNG missing links. Jimi shares the missing links with seven borders or electorates, at least we are getting some money back and we are making roads and other infrastructures in our electorates. This is a good investment in connecting the districts with the roads. But if we continue to give free handouts like school fee, health care and others, they will continue to sell betelnut, they will not go back to plant

coffee, copra and cocoa. When they put their children to school they will go back to their governor to ask for assistance, and then they will go to their open member and ask again for assistance and then the Government subsidizes fees

19/04

We are making our own people lazy to toil their own land.

And finally, there are so many business colleges, teacher colleges and nursing colleges that follows the right processes and were established. There are some that do not follow the right processes and we should have stopped them, but we let them to continue trying until they meet the requirements and were established. We must make sure to check them to see if they have followed the correct processes and meet the requirements to be operating in the country.

We can't be sending our children to schools that do not teach them to be self-reliant when they graduate. Our children are so consumed with wasting their time on their mobile phones. They only know how to spend money, not to make it.

These are some areas that I want to share with you all about. Thank you, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate.

Mr LUCAS DEKENA (Gumine) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the grievance debate. My grievance is focused on the relevance of education in the country.

Our education system is not in order. You might be wondering why I said that, and my answer is that, the education system that we have is producing a few elites at the expense of the majority that the system pushes out as drop outs. Do, the drop outs, have the necessary skills to fall back into the society? That is the question that I want to address.

I was born in the 1960s, prior to independence, and grew up at a time when every clan and tribe in Gumine and Simbu were required to have something called a 'hausman'. The 'hausman' was like an institution that taught us how to live our lives on our land; to toil our land and make gardens, show respect to people, how to address and communicate with people and how to be diplomatic. All these skills were taught to us in the 'hausman'.

And the difference between the 'hausman' and the current education system is that, the 'hausman' was focused on making the majority of the young men and women to be successful in the society. Of course, one or two that grew up in the 'hausman' became misfits,

but the majority were able to fall back into the society and toil their lands. That was the society that I grew up in, in the 1960s.

Since the education system was introduced, we only produce a few elites, but the majority of our citizens are being pushed out as drop outs and there is no support system. I take note of the grievance by the Honourable Governor for NCD, that we are doing well in some areas, for instance, we have produced qualified doctors, lawyers and pilots.

But, in a class of 30 students, who are attending an elementary school today, how many of them will pass out as doctors

20/04

My concern is to produce all those elites, a lot of the class mates that started off during the elementary school, you will find that they went out as drop outs. So, could we come up with a system where our education is targeted at the majority of our citizens, to equip them with the required or the necessary skills for them to fall back on the land?

Let me give you an example; we have land and we can grow a multitude of crops but how many of these people are engaged in the food industry or fast-food outlets? The problem is our people do not know how to prepare the food to sell in the fast-food outlets. That is why a lot of the fast-food outlets have been taken over by Asians because we do not have the skills. We don't have to know-how to prepare all these foods to sell in the fast-food outlet.

My view is that our education system should target 80 to 90 per cent of the drop outs which have been pushed out by the system, so that they are equipped with the necessary skills to go back and live off their land. Just imagine 97 per cent of the land is still owned by the customary landowners. And for the last 48 years, only 3 per cent is state-owned, which is supporting the economy of this country.

What if we equip our people to go back on the land and work on the 97 per cent of the land that is available to them? You talk about unemployment; you don't have to worry about them. When our kids go out of school, possessed with the required skills and knowledge to go back and work on the land, you don't have to worry about unemployment problems that we have in this country. We don't have to worry about the law-and-order problems because they would have something to do.

Right now, what's happening is that the system is pushing out all these people as drop outs so we have a group of frustrated youths' in our society who have no skills to survive in their own land. And that is why we will continue to have problems.

So, that is my opinion, if we can look at directing our focus to educating our people to fall back into that society, to be responsible citizens and we will achieve a lot terms of what we want to do for our people. This is my opinion on the relevance of education in this country. What we have adopted or copied from the system was meant for the first world for you to go to school, secure a paid employment and sit in an office.

We should be more focused on an education system that should train our people to be skilled entrepreneurs. We should look at a system that should teach our people to be business people, to work on the land, to harvest their resources and become successful business people.

Right now, our system is teaching our people to go and become employees. I went to school thinking that I would get a job and take care of my parents, but what if you don't get a job because there's not enough jobs?

So, that's why my small talk or opinions

21/04

It might not seem like something big but it touches on the foundation of our society. If we get this right, we will go a long way. The Prime Minister said in his mantra, that Papua New Guinea will become the richest black Christian nation. That is possible because 97 per cent of the land of this country is owned by the people. And if we can upskill our people to go, knowing and possessing the required skills and knowledge on how to exploit the land, and invest the resources on the land, I think we will go a long way.

Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, for this time to contribute to the grievance debate.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern)– Thank you, Acting Speaker, for recognizing the people of Northern. I wish to commend all those who went before me and presented very succinct debates. I especially want to commend the member for Middle Ramu, who made a very good point. But I also want to point out that oftentimes, Members of Parliament, just for the record, do have urgent business they need to attend to immediately, and then return.

So that does happen from time to time. It doesn't mean we're not listening to all debates being presented here. Many of our ministers are very busy, they also step out briefly to sign documents. So, just to clarify for our people who are watching.

My grievance debate is on two matters, but they all align to the same issue, the issue of climate change. An issue that is very real, very grim and confronting us today. And I feel

we need to take note of. In fact, on July the 27th, in New York, Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, coined a term that it is no longer global warming, what we're facing. It is actually global boiling. That's where we are today. This is what I wish to speak about.

Before I talk about this, I want to just make a few comments in relation to the subject of seabed mining. I was quite disturbed to hear the Minister for Mining advise that the company, Nautilus Limited, that had come here, convinced us to pay them US\$300 million against the advice of the State Solicitor, then disappeared, rebranded itself in Canada, is now making its way back to PNG. This is very disturbing.

And I understand that the Minister has mentioned he has been speaking to them. So perhaps he has a strategy here to recoup that US\$300 million, and if so, this is good to hear. But if he doesn't, then I believe he should develop such a strategy, and he should do so with our Attorney General, and we should vigorously pursue this US\$300 million that we just gifted away to a company that has not carried out this type of activity anywhere in the world.

In fact, seabed mining has not been undertaken in any part of this world. And here I want to point out to, especially to the coastal people, the leaders and members of coastal communities. If you don't stop this, if you don't watch this with critical concern, then you are failing your people.

I stood against this; on the 18th of October, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, we received a petition with 22,000 signatures from coastal citizens who were very concerned about what would happen if this horrible activity were to be undertaken, an activity never undertaken before in the history of this world, and not been undertaken anywhere else, especially in the developed nations.

In fact, the developed nations have banned seabed mining, or have spoken up against it, because experts, scientists, have stated that the unknowns are too great to ignore, especially the area referred to as the pelagic areas of the deep sea where life forms for the ocean begin their journey, the unknowns are too great but we a developing nation that doesn't have the scientific way we told to be able to mitigate any negative deprecations from such activities but we willingly embrace these activities, yes, come and dig our sea bed, do whatever you want and here is \$300 million dollars too, well you read it.

22/04

Now let's not listen to our coastal communities even the 22 000 of them that signed the petition that was delivered. Let's not listen to them, what arrogant behavior. And now they are coming back again and we will be absolute fools if we let them in, they already fooled us once, shame on them but if they fool us twice well shame on all of us. This is shameful I can't believe this. So, I want to put on notice here that all Papua New Guineans should be concerned.

In fact, all citizens of this world there are two most serious threats to humanity today; nuclear fallout and global boiling. They are going to affect us in fact when Antonio Guterres made those comments June and July were recorded as the hottest months ever recorded in the world's history since recording of such things began and worse to come. Greece razing with fire, Algeria floods and many other parts of this world reeling from serious environmental disruptions that are caused by human activity. We have to be concerned about this I want to caution our Minister for Mining, our government and say, let's be very careful with our coastal communities their oceans and our oceans the source of our life. I so glad that Nautilus wined up and left and I was one of those that contributed as much as I possibly could in making sure they leave. And now to hear that they are coming back to take a bite at the cherries so to speak, shame on us w let this to happen, this is not to take back PNG.

The other issue that I wish to speak off also relates to Climate Change or Global Boiling is that of a recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that took place in Bonn from the 5 to the 15 of June 2023, it was quite interesting. Half of our PNG delegation at the (UNFCCC) Conference that took place in Bonn consisted of foreigners working with or for the coalition of the rain forest nations, which we were represented by 25 people and 12 of them were foreigners. What do they know about our country to be there to present about our country and our environment? Who appointed them and do we not have our own experts? This is shameful in fact they were pictures being circulated of the official PNG delegation at this important UNFCCC conference showing an Italian woman and American man sitting there with PNG flag speaking on behalf of all of us, shameful. Are we not a sovereign nation that we can't send our own people to attend this very important meeting that we have to send foreigners? What does that say about us? One of those foreigners we know very well a gentleman by the name of Kevin Conrad, CEO of the Coalition of Rain Forest Nations. He is managing an online

Carbon Credits Sales Scheme and he is keen to get control of all rainforest member nation carbon credits to be sold under this scheme.

Mr Luther Wenge – Point of Order! My respectful Governor sorry, the Standing Orders clearly states that you don't make mention of people who are here. You can say somebody or describe them but don't call their names because they are not here to defend themselves.

23/04

The standing order is very clear at this point not that I'm supporting this person that he is referring too, no.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honorable Governor your point of order is in order unless if there is an allegation made against the person would not be allowed to be made here in the floor of parliament but if it is in regarding to a statement which the country had to know I will allow the Governor to make the statement.

Mr GARRY JUFFA – So may I mention his name or not?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Governor if you have an allegation against him?

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Oh, I do have allegations against him, I don't have one I have several allegations against him.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Governor I think you only have one minute.

Mr GARRY JUFFA – One minute!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Yes

Mr GARRY JUFFA – I got ten. Anyway, this person is out there, I won't mention Kevin Conrad's name again but this person is out there representing the collision of rainforest nations and purporting to represent Papua New Guinea and we are allowing him to bundle all of our forest resources and sell them on this platform carbon credits of which organization will return 10 per cent.

Do the forest people of this nation know about this? Do any of you know about this? That this people are out there representing you and your people speaking on your behalf. Don't you know that? Well that's what's happening, half of our delegation were at this very important meeting representing you and you didn't know any of them, they are not your citizens, some of them never even came here.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honorable Governor your ten minutes have leap, the Honorable Governor for Enga.

Sir PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I want to also join my other colleagues in the debate today. My debate will be centered on elections.

Mr Acting Speaker, the first time I entered politics was in 1982 election. Election from that time till now has gone to a next level. If we are not giving attention to election, it can get violent and corrupt and the some of the people you never expected to be in this Parliament will come in as your leader.

To maintain democracy, it is important for the government to make sure that we protect the election process. From my experience I've seen from the last election in Enga I think went to a next level. We were hitting the front pages for negative things and many of this starts with us leaders. It reflects the process of electing leaders at all levels. So I want to take this time to ask the government to have a look at it. Ensure the Electoral Commission go back after elections to assess and fix the issues. They are not supposed to only run the elections, if there is election deficiencies it is also their job to help the government and fix it.

Mr Keith Iduhu – Point of Order!

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honorable Governor we have a point of order from Member for Hiri-Koiari.

Mr KEITH IDUHU – My good Governor very interesting debate, very important debate but unfortunately Mr Acting Speaker I believe this is a subject that is before the Parliamentary Committee, the Special Parliamentary Committee on elections which is at the face of preparing its report. Perhaps this very good debate would be reserved for subsequent sitting when that report is stabled. I see the standing order, thank you.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable Member this is a grievance debate time and that won't be necessary. A Member can raise a comment if he wish to so I'll ask the governor to continue on with his debate. The Chairman of the committee can take note on the debate so it can be presented on the report when it comes.

24/04

Sir PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. So, I feel that the Electoral Commission has the responsibility to recommend some change to happen to strengthen the law. Since, I have been to through these Election and I have been here in Parliament there was never a time that the Electoral Commission tried to fix things so I would like the Government to take note of this. What kind of people we are appointing to critical offices? They have a duty of ensuring that there are fair and transparent elections in this country.

In my case in Enga as I mentioned, I have observed many times over the years that the Electoral Commission has not tried to fix their processes so now we are going to the next level and we are getting away with it.

In the last elections, we had candidates going into the counting room and picking up boxes of their preference and they were marking them as theirs but who gave them the right to do that, every ballot paper comes from each electorate.

There are some electorate where every election, the Nation knows and even the system knows how corrupt that electorate is but there has been no action to change so as an individual I feel that all the government agencies responsible are colluding.

So, instead of changing the systems to abide by the laws, the people in the offices like the Electoral Commission, the Police, the Defense and CIS who are supposed to be enforcing the laws of this country are being compromised. The country is going lost in every direction so when are we going to be responsible.

So, Mr Acting Speaker, my opinion that I would leave with the Government is that it been a year after the elections; Mr Acting Speaker, in the past you never experienced what happened this elections, they burnt the ballot papers so in anyone doing any investigation in to that or is there any follow up on what the issues were? It is a very critical issue and I want us to seriously look into it. I think that our government has to advise all of these agencies to perform their work diligently.

In the past, the appointment of officials was done in the system but today we are all putting in names; you will be lucky if you get your candidate in because there is everybody going in with a certain price.

So, leaders let us fix the election process and let us appoint credible candidates to office so that they can run these agencies properly and abide the laws and processes for the betterment of our country. We must not appoint people into these important institutions because we feel that they will be helping us to achieve certain agendas for ourselves. If we are incapable for performing these duties than bring in neutral personnel so that can be able to maintain the democracy of this country.

25/04

Mr Acting Speaker, I am the Governor and if people want to remove me or the system wants to remove you cannot go and influence the system, that's why I will still come. But in the open seats, they are very small areas so that's why there is a lot of corruption and it can spoil a lot of good leaders. It is one year now and I am concern that the Electoral Commission and the Security forces are getting allowance and just roaming around. When a candidate offers them some money they go and do what the candidate pays them to do. We are seeing all of this corruption, but we are not talking and saying anything about it. Who is going to fix it? Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for giving me the opportunity.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER – Honourable members, I interrupt the grievance debate and advise that our grievance debate has lapsed. The Honourable Treasurer, the Acting leader of Government Business. Honourable Minister may you resume your seat.

Mr IAN LING-STUCKEY – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, before I table my motion for adjournment. May I just quickly clarify that Treasury has warranted a minimum of K1 million part of our K2 million intentions to the Special Parliamentary Committee chaired

by Governor Bird for reviewing the National General Elections and we look forward to the tabling of their report.

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, and before I table my motion can I also take this opportunity to thank all members of this House for their attendance at parliament this week which has of course contributed to a most productive session with Government business, thank you to all members for their passionate contributions to question time. Their detailed commentary debating ministerial statements and lastly their attendance at both Government and opposition caucus meeting. Have a restful week everyone and on that note may I now move that this Parliament adjourn until Tuesday 8 August 2023 at 10 a.m. Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Ian Ling-Stuckey**) agreed to ---

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1. p.m.

