

2012-13

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

No. 39

Friday, 24 May 2013

- 1 The Parliament met at ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Theo Zurenuoc) took the Chair.
-

Absence of quorum: The Speaker reported to the Parliament that a quorum of Members was not present and announced that he would again take the Chair at the ringing of the Bells.

Suspension of sitting: At ten o'clock a.m., the Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting: At half past ten o'clock a.m., the Speaker resumed the Chair and, a quorum of Members being present, and in accordance with Standing Order 34, invited Mr Anton Yagama (Member for Usino-Bundi) to say Prayers.

- 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – DISCHARGE OF NOTICE:** Mr James Marape (Leader of Government Business), by leave, moved – That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 38 (Government Business), being called on forthwith.
Question – put and passed.

- 4 **DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY:** The following order of the day, Government Business, was read, and on the motion of Sir Puka Temu (Minister for Public Service), discharged.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (APPOINTMENT TO CERTAIN OFFICES LAW 2013 (*Minister for Public Service*): First required opportunity for debate and First Vote (*from 15 May*).

- 5 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS:** Mr James Marape (Leader of Government Business), by leave, moved – That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Prime Minister (Mr Peter O’Neill) presenting the *Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2013*.

Question – put and passed.

- 6 **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013:** Mr Peter O’Neill (Prime Minister), by leave, presented a Bill for and Act to amend the *Income Tax Act 1959* to provide for the use of tax credit scheme by eligible tax payers to fund national infrastructure projects and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Peter O’Neill moved – That the Bill be now read a second time

Debate ensued.

Closure: Sir PukaTemu (Minister for Public Service) moved – That the question be now put.

Question – put and passed – Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor General – Recommendation of imposition of taxation:

The Speaker announced that he had received a message from His Excellency the Governor General, dated 23 May 2013, recommending the imposition of taxation in accordance with Section 210 of the *Constitution* insofar as the Bill related to and provides for such imposition.

Mr Peter O’Neill, by leave, moved – That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Sir PukaTemu (Minister for Public Service) moved – That the question be now put – put and passed.

And the Question – That the Bill be now read a third time – was put accordingly, and passed – Bill read a third time.

- 7 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS) – STATEMENT BY LEAVE:** Mr James Marape (Leader of Government Business) moved – That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Prime Minister making a statement.

Question – put and passed.

- 8 **STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER – REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES:** Mr Peter O’Neill (Prime Minister) made a statement in relation to the correspondence from Paraka Lawyers which was tabled in Parliament on 23 May 2013 by the Leader of the Opposition, and clarified that the correspondence

correspondence did not originate from his office and was neither written nor signed by him.

Privilege: Mr Peter O’Neill (Prime Minister), as a matter of privilege, the contents of the letter and the questions raised by Mr Beldan Namah (Leader of the Opposition) and requested the Speaker to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges.

Privilege – Referral of matter: The Speaker having considered the matter and was of the opinion that any matter for tabling must be sanctioned by the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of Parliament. He ruled that in order to protect the integrity and decorum of the Parliament, he decided to refer the matter to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Privileges for its consideration and report.

- 9 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 108 –
Question proposed – That the grievances be noted.
Debate ensued.
Question – That the grievances be noted – put and passed.

- 10 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr James Marape (Leader of Government Business) moved –
That the Parliament do now adjourn.
Question – put and passed.

And then the Parliament at five minutes to one o’clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 28 May 2013, at ten o’clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr AtiWobiro, Mr Belden Namah, Mr Ben Micah, Mr Benny Allan, Mr BokaKondra, Mr Charlie Benjamin, Mr Davis Steven, Mr Don Polye, Mr EremanToBaining Jnr, Mr Francis Awesa, Mr Francis Potape, Mr Garry Juffa, Mr James Gau, Mr James Lagea, Mr John Hickey, Mr Johnson Tuke, Mr Joseph Yopyyopy, Mr Justin Tkachenko, Mr Kelly Naru, Mrs Loujaya Tony, Mr LoutaAtoi, Mr Malakai Tabar, Mr Nixon Mangape, Mr Patrick Pruaitch, Mr Paul Tiensten, Mr Pesab Jeffery Komal, Mr Richard Maru, Mr Robert Atiyafa, Mr Ross Seymour, Mr Sam Basil, Mr SolanMirisim, Mr Steven Kamma, Mr Mr Titus Philemon, Mr Tobias Kulang, Mr WestleyNukundj and Dr William Tongamp.