

TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2008

The Deputy Speaker, Hon Clement Kengava took the Chair at 9.53 am.

Prayers.

ATTENDANCE

At prayers, all were present with the exception of the Minister of Culture & Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Mines, Energy & Electrification, National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace, Environment & Conservation, Provincial Government, Agriculture & Livestock and Members for South Choiseul, West New Georgia/Vona Vona, West Guadalcanal, Central Makira, Central Honiara, West Are Are, South Vella La Vella, Temotu Nende, East Makira, Temotu Vattu, North West Guadalcanal, Malaita Outer Islands and South New Georgia/Rendova.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Police: Provincial Police Offices

12. Hon. SOGAVARE to the Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services: Can the Minister inform Parliament on the findings of the assessment carried out of all our provincial police offices?

Hon. MANETOALI: Mr. Speaker and I like to thank the Leader of Opposition and the hard working Member of Parliament for East Choiseul.

Mr. Speaker, the Solomon Islands Police Force, after establishing the internal audit unit in 2007 and 2008 conducted audits of many of the police stations in Honiara and throughout the provinces. It reports to the executive on areas requiring improvement and highlight areas of excellence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Speaker, the Minister made reference to areas that need improvement. Can the Minister briefly inform the Parliament which areas need improvement?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr. Speaker, before I answer that question, the audit and inspection includes the following areas: Dockets, which includes crime register book, statutory register book, inquiry file register, prosecution files, office

registry, office correspondence activity, random docket file quality assurance, watch house, custodial procedures, exhibits and property, the Solomon Islands Police Force assets, vehicles, buildings, equipments, consumables, special duty planning, staffing issues, especially rostering of human resources management.

Mr Speaker, each director and police provincial commander submits a monthly report outlining performance against key indicators linked to the Solomon Islands Police Force strategic directions and annual business plan, and where stated the CNURA government's policies for police.

Police performance is reported to government each quarter and is also the subject of the Solomon Islanders Police Force annual report. It is by this mechanism that the Commissioner of Police ensures that the activities of the Police Force are directed at and consistent with the government's policy initiatives.

The things that are found out during the assessment would be found in the reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Speaker, I actually asked for the Minister to just summarize the areas that need improvements, but he made reference to a report. Could that report be made available to Parliament may be later on?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr. Speaker, of course, yes.

Mr. Waipora: Mr. Speaker I heard the Honorable Minister talking about improvement of office work on things like papers. I want to ask a supplementary question on the practical side of Police and RAMSI. There is a tendency that our local police seem to be inefficient and ineffective because of logistics. But besides that you will see RAMSI having many things. Mr Minister, do you see what I am seeing, in which case our local police are saying that they cannot do any work. Is how I am seeing it correct?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend, the MP for West Makira for his question. I see a bit of what my friend is seeing but it is just like this. On logistics, it is true that our police cannot match up with what RAMSI has, but the government is trying its best to give our police what they need in their work. For example, the government is trying its best to provide transport, housing and other things that would enhance the performance of our police officers.

Mr. Speaker, on transportation, the government is looking into that issue. Even RAMSI is starting to donate its vehicles to the Solomon Islands Police Force at this stage.

Hon. Sogavare: With the assurance that the Minister will provide the report, I would like to thank the Minister for answering the questions.

Public Service: Acting Appointments

13. **Hon SOGAVARE** to the Minister for Public Service: In respect of acting appointments in the Public Service, can the Minister inform Parliament as follows:-

- (a) The number of officers acting on higher levels for more than six months in the different Ministries.
- (b) Reasons for prolonged acting arrangement, and
- (c) What actions are taken to formalize substantive appointment of officers?

Hon. TOZAKA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Leader of Opposition, MP for East Choiseul for asking the question. My answer is as follows. There are 61 officers on acting appointments, and the details as follows. In the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey (1) - acting extended, and that is the Commissioner of Lands; Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology (1); Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs (8); Ministry of Health and Medical Services (18); Ministry of Finance & Treasury (2); Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination (1); Ministry of Police and National Security (17); Ministry of Provincial Government (2); Ministry of Home Affairs (1); Ministry of Rural Development (5); Ministry of Mines, Energy & Rural Electrification (1); Ministry of Commerce (1); Office of the Auditor General (1) who is the Acting Auditor General; Ministry of Public Service (1); and the Office of the Prime Minister (1). So there are 61 officers on acting appointment.

The answers to part (b) of the question is that the current service commission regulations, which includes the Public Service Commission and the other two commissions, are clear that officers can only act on vacant positions for six months and depending on the performance of the officer, the reporting officer, who is the Permanent Secretary may facilitate recommendation to respective service commission to either promote him/her or have his/her acting appointment extended for another term. If after the extension, the responsible officer is not satisfied then he may have the post advertised.

The Public Service Commission acts on recommendations from Permanent Secretaries on recruitment, selection and delegated functions.

- On part (c), the reasons for prolonged acting appointments are as follows:-
- Responsible officers are not satisfied with performance

- Inadequate qualified, professional and technical manpower to substantively fill positions.

The answer to part (c) is that my Ministry together with the Public Service Commission have reminded responsible officers to comply with the Public Service regulation. Public Service had issued circulars to that effect, and as a result there have been significant improvement resulting in many officers being substantively promoted.

My officers are collaborating with ministries to ensure that outstanding officers are formalized after six months or substantively filled by graduates. Our next check with this task is the first quarter of next year in 2009. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Thank you very much for that. Just one supplementary question. In the case, like after six months and it is reviewed, say Permanent Secretaries review the suitability of officers to be promoted and it was found out that they are not suitable, what are you going to do with such people? Will they continue to act or what are you doing to such officers?

Hon. Tozaka: Mr. Speaker, thank you Leader of Opposition for that question. If an officer according to the ACR record is not satisfactory in his/her performance, procedurally they are informed of their weakness or why they are not promoted to substantively fill the post, and then it is decided as to whether it should be extended for another six months, giving him/her chance to improve on his/her weaknesses. But if the responsible officer, which in this case is the Permanent Secretary, is not satisfied with the officer then the post is advertised.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Speaker, just for interest purposes for the information of Parliament, you have listed down the people who are on acting appointments, how long have these people been acting. What is the average sort of period those people you have listed have been acting on those posts, obviously more than six months? How long have some of them been acting? Put them together, the average period of time they have been acting.

Hon. Tozaka: Mr. Speaker, only two that I know of their acting appointments have been extended, and that is the Commissioner of Lands, which my colleague Minister of Lands and myself are now working on to substantively fill the position. The other one is the Auditor General's position. The Prime Minister has already explained the position of this position. The rest of them are on six months period and we are monitoring them. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, I have a unit, which is a very important unit in the Public Service, which before

was called the O&M Unit (organization and management) but now it is called organization and development, is the unit that is responsible to follow up on promotions and posts making sure there is compliance in the ministries. That is why I mentioned in my reply that another check will be in the first quarter of next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Minister for answering the questions.

Fisheries: Licensing Procedures

60. Mr. WAIPORA to the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources: Can the Minister inform Parliament what new access licensing procedures will apply in the future following the completion of the review of the procedures intended to be completed in June 2008.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit down I got this question from page 89 of the government's policy implementation framework because I am wondering what are they doing at this time.

Hon. LENI: Mr. Speaker, before I answer that question I want to raise a point of order. In the provisional order paper and the order paper, Mr. Speaker, the words 'Deputy Leader of Opposition' do not appear anywhere in the Constitution nor does it exist in the PER and therefore I think it should not be used as an official title, not until we amend the constitution. That is my view, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: Point of order. Can you give me a chance to reply to that? I accept your point of order because in my ruling I never refer to him as Deputy Leader of Opposition I always refer him as the Member for West Makira.

Hon. Leni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will answer the question now. Mr Speaker, the job of giving license to fishing vessels that come to Solomon Islands is a big thing for us in the country because revenue we receive from the fishing industry comes from licenses.

This review we are talking about in our implementation program is not only looking at provisional license, but it looks at involving the fisheries sector in terms of management and development plan of fish in our waters.

The progress of work happening so far is that discussion papers we have put together in talking with the Forum Fisheries Agencies is still going on at this time. Some changes, and good changes they are, the government is thinking of

matching prices with market needs so that our fish can be sold overseas, we think that we must strongly look at how we sell our fish overseas so that our fish is not depleted. By doing this, if we allow too many license and we do not control the sizes of boats coming to our waters and our prices are link with market prices overseas, we might release or give up too many fish for less money and so it will put us in danger that fish in our waters might be depleted very soon.

These changes, as soon as they are done after consultation or talks with the FFA, and in looking at agreements and conclusions that eight members of the Partnership Nauru Agreement (PNA), we will proceed to try and talk with our bilateral partners in the coming consultations in January next year. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Speaker, so can the Minister inform the House that the review is still not completed as yet. Can the Minister inform Parliament?

Hon. Leni: Mr Speaker , yes, but it is now nearing completion. Review on drafts and exchange of papers between the government, our Ministry with the FFA, and also FFA in consultation with our regional partners inside the FFA grouping. We are hoping that sometimes this month the final draft will come so that we will know where agreement is reached with our regional friends and therefore hopefully by January we should have the final copy of the review papers.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. In fact the question is very simple, it is just asking for the new access licensing procedures, and so what the Minister is saying now is not until after that review is completed before we can come up with procedures as to how the license will be addressed. Can the Minister confirm that?

Hon. Leni: That is correct, Mr Speaker.

Mr Waipora: Supplementary question, Mr Speaker, because it is talking about a review, reviewing of licenses and fees, how many licenses do we have at this time and what is the fee so that you are reviewing at this time?

Hon. Leni: Mr Speaker, I think the Honorable Member does not understand the issue properly. We do not review licenses, but the contents of the license are what need reviewing.

We have ships coming in, and there is a set of rules where if a license is given, the conditions, the set of conditions go with it. I think a good example is

an issue last time when a ship comes into our waters, it has a license but it does not have the activation fee and so it was fined. The other ship has a license but the condition under the license is the activation fee. When the ship was arrested it was found out that it had this condition under activation under the license is alright and so it was released. There are sets of conditions under a license.

When we are talking about a license, it is not a license like what we pay as license for a vehicle. No, it is different in our case. There are sets of rules laid down under the license. Those are the conditions and we should try and look at conditions applied by another regional partner in that we are under FFA.

Mr Waipora: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Honorable Minister for his answers. I asked the question because he said June 2008, and that is why I asked him so that he can make it available to us. With that I thank him for answering our questions.

Fisheries: Soltai Fishing Company

61. Mr **WAIPORA** to the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources: What long term management option has been agreed on for Soltai Fishing and processing company?

Hon. LENI: Mr Speaker, review was done and the report has reached the government through the Ministry of Finance, and the government is seriously considering the report at the moment. The report is yet to go through Cabinet, and so I may not satisfy the questioner but not until it passes through Cabinet before I can answer this question in detail.

Mr Waipora: Mr Speaker, with the understanding the Minister said that he does not want to preempt anything that Cabinet might decide on, and so he cannot answer any more questions. Although I have some more questions but since it has not gone through Cabinet, I just want to thank the Honorable Minister for that answer.

Questions No. 84, 85 and 110 deferred

Mr Speaker: That concludes our question time.

Bills - Committee of Supply

The 2009 Appropriation Bill 2008

Mr Speaker: Honorable Members, the House will now resolve into a committee of supply to continue with its consideration of the 2009 Appropriation Bill 2008.

Committee of Supply

Mr Chairman: Honorable Members, our consideration of the 2009 Appropriation Bill 2008 continues today, our second day in the Committee of Supply. We will continue from where we left off yesterday. We will start with Head 279 – National Parliament on page 262 of the Recurrent Estimates and page 5 in the Bill itself”.

Hon. Sogavare: Point of order, Mr Chairman. May be the Minister of Finance and the Attorney General clarify the issues we raised yesterday regarding the NPF before we proceed on.

Looking at Roman numeral number 7 at the preliminary tables, it reveals some very interesting position which needs the Minister of Finance and the Attorney General to clarify before we proceed. The Bill says “take account of \$194.2million of expenditure that is statutory”. It looks like the NPF contributions are not actually recognized as statutory expenditures. If you look at Roman numeral No 7 table, Summary of 2009 Expenditure by Ministry - Appropriation Table, it lists statutory expenditure there, it accounts for national debt servicing and the other expenditures. If NPF contributions are statutory expenditures all the Ministries will some figures beside them to indicate that these are statutory expenditures. It looks like that is not taken up. It looks like this budget or previous budgets treat NPF just as part of emoluments, which we voted on. The figures that we came up with yesterday, and in fact it seriously affects the Ministry of Education, about \$15million if it is part of the salary it looks like we are underestimating the salary by \$15million.

Can we get clarification from the Attorney General and the Minister of Finance on the legal aspects of it and the Minister of Finance to tell us how we are going to address this? There are other ways of addressing it and maybe the Minister to inform us how. But first of all we would like to get the Attorney General’s view on it.

Attorney General: Mr Chairman, statutory expenditures do not need to be approved by Parliament, and the law clearly says that and so if there is a shortfall in the estimates in respect of statutory entitlements then that does not mean the government cannot make up for the shortfall. It is something the government must pay despite the shortfall. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, as I have said already this budget is treating NPF as part of the emoluments. I get the view expressed by the Attorney General but what he is actually saying here is that we should not be worried about it. Or what is he actually saying Mr Chairman?

Attorney General: Mr Chairman, apart from what I have said, of course the application of the NPF Act comes into play as it is a statutory requirement under the NPF Act. On top of what I said that if Parliament is excused from approving statutory expenditures because the Constitution says so, what the Constitution does not require is what we are trying to deal with for approval.

The obligation is always there – the obligation is always there. The other point I want to add now is that the NPF Act itself requires it, and so that is a further statutory obligation. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: I think it is clear, the Attorney General has confirmed that the NPF deductions are statutory expenditures. With that explanation, Mr Chairman, I think it is clear as to how we should deal with it as it is now a statutory expenditure and so there is no need to vote on it but we need to take note of the level of underestimation of the NPF contributions, which is too much. Although we do not vote on it, but as I said it directly affects the ability of the budget to finance other services. May be next time the budget needs to go to the Attorney General to look at it first so that the list makes sense.

Mr Chairman, you only take account of 194 and every Ministries should have statutory expenditures listed beside them so that we know exactly the level of statutory expenditures that we are not going to vote on, which is eating the revenue collected by the government but which we did not vote on, and it directly affects services. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Attorney General: For the records, I would like to refer specifically to a provision in the Constitution – section 102(5) which says, “Statutory expenditure shall not be voted on by Parliament but, without further authority of Parliament, shall be paid out of the consolidated fund by warrant under the hand of the Minister of Finance”. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, we know that and that is the problem because we do not vote on them, but it does eat away the revenue base, and so it directly affects the ability of other services to be delivered.

Mr Chairman: I think the legal clarification has been well explained by the Attorney General. The concern raised by the Leader of Opposition is noted by Parliament. We shall now proceed.

Head 279 – National Parliament

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, 279-0001-2070 – Staff Travel and Transport (Local) has an allocation of \$1.4million. Does this include the UNDP sponsored staff?

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, this item has been increased substantially, but it does not include the travel of the UNDP staff.

Hon. Sogavare: The other one is item 0001-6008 – Parliamentary Session and Committee Expenses. Does this include the Standing Committees and allowances of Committee Members? The other question is, what is the cost of this ongoing work of the Foreign Relations Committee in the review RAMSI?

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, this allocation on Parliamentary Session and Committees includes the work of Parliamentary Committees and Standing Committees of Parliament, and there is another allocation for the work undertaken by the Foreign Relations Committee.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, where is the cost of the work undertaken by the Foreign Relations Committee reflected? Can the Prime Minister confirm where this is reflected?

Mr Tosika: Mr Chairman, during our meeting we passed a budget for travel, and so this inflated traveling includes the traveling of the Foreign Relations Committee to the provinces and for meeting of their allowances.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, in terms of accountability I think the place that this should be rightly reflected in is cost of the committees. That legal item mentioned by the Honorable Member for West Honiara is for staff travel and transport. For accountability purposes, this needs to be reflected in the appropriate Head item.

Hon. Sikua: The reason why we have not seen any particular allocation for the work of that Committee is in view of the fact that it has been spread over items 279-0001-2620 and 279-0001-3651.

Hon Sogavare: Mr Chairman, organizational administration has an increase of half a million dollars there. What does that involve?

Hon. Sikua: The increase in this item is reflective of the inclusion of administration and logistical expenses for committee work and civic engagement activities including payment of our subscription fees to the CPA and FFPOC. You know very well that when you change Solomon dollar into pound, you would not believe it and therefore the increase on this budget line item.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0094-1035 NPF (Members). Who contributes to the NPF of the Members of Parliament?

Why I am raising that is because if this covers the salaries of everyone then this is 7.5% of everyone. I did not contribute to NPF, and so who is contributing to NPF?

Hon. Rini: This is a voluntary contribution by Members of Parliament. Some Members are still contributing according to the NPF Act. A lot of our Members still contribute voluntarily to the NPF. I am not sure how many of them contribute voluntarily to the NPF, you can find this out from the Clerk's Office but I know there are members who are still voluntarily contributing to the NPF.

Hon. Sogavare: I am raising this question, Mr Chairman, because this is assuming that everyone is contributing to NPF, it is not voluntary, this 7.5% from the salary of everyone accounted for there. But that is alright as it is just an estimate and so we cannot argue over it. But the position as it appears in the budget is that it assumes everyone contributes to NPF.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, in addition to what the Minister of Finance has said, only some Members contribute but at different rates of their own choice, not at 7.5% as is usually the case, and so only some Members and at different rates.

Head 279 - \$22,851,495 agreed to

Head 280 – Ministry of Forestry and Research

Hon. Sogavare: Can the Minister confirm that pages 276 and 277 are moved to pages 278 and 279?

Hon. Tausinga: The Ministry's allocation rightly started on page 278. The items you see on page 276 are old ones.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just for the Minister to clarify to us that the establishment has increased by two civil service salaries emoluments, the establishment of Headquarters and Admin only increase by 2. Why is the allocation on salaries decreased?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, the establishment may perhaps have some discrepancies, but the allocation you see on page 278 is what is earmarked for the activities of headquarters and administration.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, my concern is that we might not provide for every people working there. If the assumption is that \$1.5million is the level of expenditure for basic salary in year 2008, and the assumption is that if there is an increase of two (2) staff then there should be an increase to that particular item, and all the subsequent items on emoluments. But what is the cause of that big reduction?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, you would note that in all the divisions there is a general decrease in each accounting head, which suggests that there is a readjustment.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, so this is a new division. Looking at the establishment register it also exists in 2008 Mr Chairman. This maybe is for the Minister to explain where do they come from? These are people that were paid under this plantation development and reforestation division. Chairman, it is zero in 2008 but if you look at the establishment register these people still exist.

Hon. Tausinga: The allocation that you find here is a new allocation.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, in 2008 there are 54 officers existing, in 2009 there will be 62 posts and so these people exist in 2008. The simple question is, where are they paid under in 2008 so that it completes the picture? If they were moved from some of the units then there should be a corresponding reduction in that area and then a new division is established or we separate how we account for these divisions.

Hon. Tausinga: Yes, Mr Chairman, the office is still the same, and it is a new division

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, where are they paid under in 2008? If you strictly interpret to say that division does not exist in 2008 then you are right that by just looking at page 280 and page 281. The fact of the matter is that these 54 people exist in 2008 and so obviously they have been paid under somewhere or they have been moved out from somewhere. Which unit were these people moved from to form this new division.

Hon Tausinga: Mr Chairman, the observation of the Leader of Opposition is perhaps true but the fact is that this is a new structure that did not exist this year and therefore what is reflected in here is what believed to be allocation appropriate for that particular new division.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, maybe a last question, I do not need to pursue this anymore. Where are these 54 people that exist in 2008 paid under? These 54 people are obviously paid in 2008. Under which division, item, and sub item and so on?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, that would be under administration.

Mr Waipora: Mr Chairman, so does this means technical people are paid under administration in 2008. In my view, when we come to headquarters and administration we take it that it is common cadre, which is general administration. And when we come to the divisions, which are professional and technical people and so their salaries here, the salaries of these technical people cannot be transferred from administration. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: That is a comment I endorse. If we take the Minister's explanation, administration is decreased by \$940,000 in next year's budget, and the assumption and probably the same answer will be given by the Minister when we go to Herbarium and Botanical Garden and also the other Heads that are zeroed. If we add everything, it is more than \$940,000 in terms of basic salary if you take the explanation by the Minister that these are moved from Headquarter and Admin. If that is the explanation then it just creates more problems than solves it.

Hon. Wale: Mr Chairman, perhaps to shed more light and clarity into this, this is a new structure where new divisions are created and people are being moved around. But I think the important thing to note is if we look at page 275 under

summary you would see that payroll charges have actually gone up. Overall these officers are catered for. This is exactly where they would be.

In terms of divisions or admin and so forth, the Ministry has not really worked out well with the Public Service as to where they are going to be placed. But I think we can allow that process to go ahead but overall, these officers are catered for in the 2009 Appropriation.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, our intention is not to wreck our brains but it is just to find out where these people were paid under but I think we can accept that explanation.

Page 286. Mr Chairman, revenue is what we are not going to vote for - 0270 0229 - Timber Levy. We start collecting this revenue in 2008 and we collected \$1.8million and we are estimating to collect \$2million in 2009. I just want the Minister to inform Parliament at what rate are we collecting that income? I just want to know what rate applies here. How do we determine the rate of timber levy collected from whoever pays the levy?

Hon. Tausinga: What rate is it? The Ministry of Finance is collecting revenue for this. It is 7.5% rate for which we calculate the income.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, is it 7.5% of the total cubic of logs exported?

Hon. Tausinga: That is right, Mr Chairman.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, by the look of things it is about 1.2million cubic meter with 7.5% not calculated as yet. It would be very interesting to calculate that 7.5% of 1.2 million cubic meter. Is that correct?

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, it is 7.5% of the FOB value on government land. I think that is the distinction we have to make.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, it looks like we are underestimating it, and so there is need to look at it again.

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, there is only one government land that is now being operated by operators, which is Vangunu. If you calculate 7.5% of the Vangunu land that is this one.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the government confirm that levy is not collected from every logger?

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, the other loggers will be on export duty regime, which is 25% on the FOB value, which includes the 7.5%. That is included in the 25%.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can we get some answer from the Minister responsible of this particular portfolio. Thank you.

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, it is 7.5% FOB.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, thank you. So this is from timber extracted only from Vangunu land and not from every logging company. Can the Minister confirm that?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, it is 7.5% of the 25% FOB.

Hon. Sogavare: My question is for the Minister to confirm what the Minister for Environment said that this levy only applies to timber extracted from Vangunu land and it does not apply to any other logging companies. That is the explanation given by the Minister of Environment and so can the Minister just confirm that and everything will be alright.

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, the Ministry can confirm that it is logging in every place and in every land.

Hon. Wale: Mr Chairman, for further clarification, I think the Minister for Environment is confused with timber royalty which comes from government land. Timber levy is 7.5% of 25% that is paid to government of all harvests and that should go for levy.

Hon. Sogavare: We will leave it there but it is good if you look again at this estimate. On the basis of that explanation it covers everyone. The base there is quite wide. If you apply a bigger base of 7.5% you probably will collect more than \$2million. But we leave it there with that explanation.

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, I think these are substantial issues that we cannot cause misunderstanding to people about.

The point raised by the Leader of Opposition is true. If you apply 7.5% to the total concession in Solomon Islands it cannot arrive at \$2million. This \$2million only applies to government land, 7.5% on timber levy from government land. That is that income from. The 7.5% applied to total concession

throughout the country is incorporated inside that 25% FOB. The government is collecting 25% of the FOB value, which also includes the 7.5% timber levy in every other customary land in Solomon Islands. So you will find a bigger portion of the timber levy paid by operators on customary lands included inside this export duty regime. That would be the true position of this export duty regime. This only applies to government land, and as you know there is only one land in Solomon that is owned by the government and that is Vangunu. Whichever way we deal with it is something that every one of us will talk about, but that is it.

Hon. Sogavare: It is not my intention to get Ministers to come and argue in Parliament. You go and sort that out but thank you very much for the explanation, and we will see how we go in 2009.

Mr Tosika: Mr Chairman, I would just like to clarify a few things. I have been working at the Customs Department for 17 years, and one of my jobs is to assess the value of log in terms of quantifying them under various heads, and one of the heads that we usually allocate is timber royalty. As rightly stated, 25% included this 7.5%. In most cases timber royalty is there because originally the idea is to assist landowners rehabilitate their land and do reforestation, and that is why it goes directly to forestry. When this is calculated it goes to the Ministry, the Ministry allocates it directly under forestry head so that people can come back and ask for this fund and do reforestation on their lands.

To say that this is only collected from government land is not true. It is for every place where logging is done in Solomon Islands that was calculated and put aside in forestry account for people to rehabilitate their forests. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Thank you very much, Chairman, that sheds light on this issue. I think this is only a policy issue. We are talking about rehabilitating and reforestation, and I thought that it is that money that should go towards helping people to replant. Maybe we should look at determining what this 7.5% represents and that amount should be set aside for reforestation. But what we are seeing here is that we are still allocating funds for reforestation in our budget. I would have thought that there is a neat arrangement here for loggers to pay for reforestation and not to take the government from other sources to fund reforestation. Loggers who extract logs must be made to fund reforestation of our lands. It is just a policy decision that the Minister might want to comment on.

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, the aspect the Leader of Opposition is talking about is true, and the Ministry is reviewing its policy direction on what the Leader of Opposition has alluded to.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister just explain to us because these are new allocations - Government Projects Support and Annual National Trade Fair, the two last items on page 287.

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, Government Projects Support is government support to that allocation for purposes of trying to assist Unit. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Waipora: What is timber negotiation on page 287? What is timber negotiation? Is it timber rights hearing or what is this?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr Chairman, timber rights hearing is done in the provinces. Timber negotiation is sometimes done by the Ministry in some negotiation work.

Head 280 - \$17,161,395 agreed to

Head 281 – Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, if you look at the establish register in 2008 there were 34 posts and in 2009 there will be 39 posts. Mr Chairman, in regards to personal emolument of civil service salaries and other related emoluments, 4 posts are increased to 5. I want the Prime Minister to just explain the reduction.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, at the same time we also have 13 vacancies, and that explains the increase there. Thank you.

Hon Sogavare: Mr Chairman, that is the point I raised earlier on. In fact if you look at the way the 2009 budget is structured it actually costs out and make provisions for vacant posts too.

In fact, I did some analysis of all the ministries in the Prime Minister's Office and you are overestimating the total payroll estimate by \$4,771. All the posts including vacant posts are actually accounted for in the 2009 budget. That still does not explain the reason why we have a reduction at the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet and administration.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister for Public Service and the Minister for Finance should be here to assist the Prime Minister because they are the ones who

structured the budget. Mr. Chairman, I do not expect Prime Minister to know all these things

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, like I have said I have 13 vacant positions and as we have been told by the Minister of Finance that vacant posts are not catered for in the budget, and so how it turns out in the establishment register and how that balances off with the budget is something that I have no control over. But that is my explanation, and thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I am quite comfortable because if you look at the payroll everybody is catered for. The Prime Minister needs to just explain how it is reduced on this particular item, but I don't want to put the Prime Minister to task here.

Can I get the Prime Minister's confirmation on item 0061-1120, that this is the salary of all contracted Permanent Secretaries? Can the Prime Minister confirm that?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, the last item on page 298, item 0061-6007 - Renovation of PM's residence. What kind of renovation work will be undertaken on the PM's residence in 2009? I just want the PM to tell us.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, on renovation of the PM's residence, this is to do with further renovation to the flooring which is starting to rot and shaky. I think the rafters underneath because of age are beginning to shag. The walling and everything else are nicely done except for the flooring, which needs to be changed.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, that one is alright, except the same amount appears again on page 306. I think the same concern was raised in the last meeting but is still not rectified, and that is the narration. But I do not want to go on to that page; we accept the Prime Minister's explanation. Definitely that house needs to be fully repaired.

Just for long term planning, I was wondering whether the government should look at investing into building a proper residence for the head of the executive government. We should also look at building residences for the three heads of government; build an official residence for the Speaker, an official residence for the Chief Justice and an official residence for the Prime Minister. These are the three heads of government and this time they are living in houses

that are not presentable. I can understand and attest to what the Minister is saying that the house is breaking down. It does not look good when you go overseas and you see the residences of Prime Ministers very, very presentable. The point I want to raise here is that we should now be seriously considering investing in three official residences of the three heads of government.

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, the very important point raised by the Hon. Leader of Opposition is taken note of.

Mr. Waipora: Page 298, accounting code 281-0061-0121 - subventions and grants. I just want to ask the Hon. Prime Minister that is subventions and grants to which organizations?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, this subvention is for the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation that comes under the Office of the Prime Minister.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 300. Mr. Chairman I understand that this Information Service still bears the old name, nonetheless I assume that that relates to the Communication Department in the Prime Minister's Office.

In regards to civil service salaries, there is income collected there and I assume bodies are there. Where are these people paid under if they are there?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, the budget line that caters for the salaries of staff now comes under Cabinet Administration.

Hon. Sogavare: We have human beings here under the Policy Evaluation Unit, but other charges are not provided for, they are all zero for 2009. Can the Prime Minister confirm where these have moved to?

Hon. Sikua: These also now come under Cabinet Administration.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 304. Mr. Chairman, item 0071-4129 - gifts and presents. That particular item is catered for on page 298 which we have already passed under item 0061-4129 under Prime Minister and Cabinet Administration for gift and presents. What is this allocation for? Who are we giving presents to?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, generally you give gifts and presents to people that come and visit you here in Solomon Islands. This is under the Private Office and it is gifts taken with you to be given to your colleagues when traveling overseas for meetings.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I would have thought it would be neatly put under Prime Minister and Cabinet Administration, but any we accept the Prime Minister's explanation on that.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 305. Mr Chairman, item 0071-6302 - Riots Enquiry. What is this allocation for in 2009 of \$3.4 million?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, the allocation for 2009, I think may have included allocation for other commissions that are ongoing. They are just using that budget line for the Commission of Inquiry into Land Dealings on Guadalcanal and the Political Party Integrity Bill. That is my suspicion but I guess that has taken into account the other commissions that are ongoing. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister is right, the Commission of Enquiry into Land Dealings has zero provisions. I thought that it was that commission that is working at this time and the riots enquiry is finished. We take the Prime Minister's explanation that it is for that particular commission, because I look under the Ministry of Peace as well but there is no allocation there to enquire into land dealings as it is to do with peace. Thank you for that explanation. I think it is more appropriately to be under the commission of enquiry into land dealings and not riot because riot is already finished.

Page 306. Mr. Chairman, this renovation of PM's residence under the Ombudsman's Office, item -0091-6007 is the same amount that appear under the Prime Minister's head for renovation of PM's residence. It is again under here and so it must be a very serious matter.

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, I think that is office renovation of the Ombudsman's Office. I think that is what that is meant for.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I am raising this and I do not want to put the Prime Minister to task because we raised this at the last sitting of Parliament and the same thing appeared again. It looks like issues raised in here are not addressed. The explanation given was for renovation of the Ombudsman's Office and not the Prime Minister's residence. The Minister of Finance should take note of this and change those narrations accordingly.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 308, again all these supporting services cost - offices expenses, printing, fuel, staff travel, there are allocations for human beings in the

National Intelligence Unit but no cost for the logistics. Can the Prime Minister inform the committee where those costs are incurred under?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, two staffs have been budgeted for in the establishment to establish the office, and they have been moved to Cabinet Administration.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 309. Mr Chairman, can the Prime Minister confirm to this House that this Unit no longer exists?

Hon. Sikua: Is the Leader of Opposition referring to the Legal Policy Unit?

Hon. Sogavare: That is right on page 309.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, the operational budget of this legal policy unit is again merged with the Cabinet Administration, and so there is a provision for it under Cabinet Administration. I think it is just a matter of recruiting the appropriate people to man this unit. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Can the Prime Minister confirm that even the civil service salary is also merged into the headquarter administration because it is also zero rated in here.

Mr Chairman, the way this page is presented - the legal policy unit no longer exists because we do not provide for their salaries and also provide for office expenses. We are saying that there are no human beings there and so there is no need to provide for those activities. The first question is whether this unit continues to exist, and the Prime Minister said that supporting services costs are merged into administration. Can he also confirm that the same also applies to civil service salaries?

Hon. Sikua: What I said is that its operational budget is under Cabinet Administration, but not the salaries.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, in that case we have a very serious problem here, because it is zero rated. There is no salary allocation in here, it is zero.

Hon. Sikua: That is correct, Mr Chairman, because we are yet to recruit people for this unit?

Head 281- \$56,542,631 agreed to

Head 282 – Pensions and Gratuities

Attorney General: Mr Chairman, this head has a mixture of expenses and non statutory expenses, and the Minister of Finance can explain.

Hon. Rini: Mr Chairman, the total under this head is \$11,123,737 of which statutory payment is \$6,671,181 and so the balance of \$4,452,556 is not statutory expense. That is what we appropriated for in this Bill. Thank you.

Head 282 - \$4,452,556 agreed to

Head 283 – Ministry of Police and National Security

Hon. Sogavare: For the Minister's confirmation, on personal emoluments the post number remains the same - 38 in headquarters and admin, but there is an increase of half a million dollars on basic salary. Can the Minister explain to us why?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, increase in civil service salary is to cater for civilian posts in the Solomon Islands Police Force support services who are remunerated under headquarters.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, sorry I did not get that quite clearly. My question is that the post remains the same at 38 posts if you look at the establishment register. The allocation for basic salary has increased by half a million dollar to \$571,501. Can the Minister explain to us that increase in allocation?

Mr Chairman, you add the posts in admin and headquarter, it is 38 posts altogether, which means the posts will remain the same in 2009 but there is an increase of half a million dollars.

We take note as well that there are quite a number of vacant posts there, so can the Minister just confirm that may be that increase has to do with the vacant posts as well. I want the Minister to confirm that so that we have a common understanding here.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, the increase is to cater for vacant posts next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 323. Mr Chairman, item 0140-2080 - Leave and Posting Travel has a big increase. There is an increase of \$1.1million from \$100,000 in 2008 revised allocation. Mr Chairman, what is envisaged here – what is

happening here, can the Minister explain to us? There is a big movement of people as it appears here.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, this is to cater for leave entitlement of \$1,000 per officer.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, when did that \$1,000 per officer start to apply because if the same number of people are there in 2008 for this \$100,000 allocation, then where is that catered for in 2008?

Hon. Manetoali: It will cater as from next year onwards.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I think we can let that pass, but we understand that there is a payment paid by the government for people going on leave and also posting travel. That is a very big movement of staff and \$1.2million is a very big allocation and so what we are looking at is mass movement of police officers.

Hon. Tora: I guess this provision caters for officers going on leave next year. This is also to cater for posting of police officers based in Honiara to stations throughout the country.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, so how many police officers are going to be posted to other places in 2009?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, I do not have the number of police officers to be posted out, with me, but there would be police officers posted out. But this \$1,000 used to come under other allowances, and now it is shifted to other charges.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, to clarify to some of us who do not know what this is for, page 324, item 0140-3084 – Consumables - Surface. Can the Minister explain to us, lay people who do not understand this, maybe it is police terms so that we know what this is all about.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, consumable surface are things like toilet paper and other little things like that.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, for the Minister to clarify to us from page 326 onwards regarding telephones and faxes, the allocation are zeroed. I would

assume that this is paid for somewhere, and not that these people are stop using faxes and telephones.

Can the Minister explain to us where in the other units is the cost of faxes and telephones taken up, because when you come to Media, Finance Management and Professional Standards, Inspectorate & Internal Audit, all the telephones and faxes are zero? Can the Minister explain where are these costs taken up?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, telephones and faxes are zero because it is taken up at the headquarters.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister explain what is finance management? That unit looks like it was abolished. Can the Minister explain because finance management is very important when it comes to implementation of the budget of the Ministry? What is happening to this unit on page 327 as it is zero rated in 2009? It has a very important function.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, it is zero because it comes under Ministry Headquarters Support services which are civilians but posted to Police Headquarters, and so their salaries are met by the Ministry Headquarters.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister explain the concept of community policing as it is reflected in every unit from pages 329 to 362. Can the Minister please explain the concept of community policing and how all those various units are involved in community policing. Thank you.

Hon. Manetoali: If you look at the entire budget of the Ministry of Police you would see community policing in areas like Inspectorate & General Audit, Strategic Planning, Statistic Record, National Response Unit, Police Band, Police Prosecution, Human Resources, Special Events and Traffic. Funds for community policing are allocated in each of the divisions and units to enable them carry out their own community policing work.

The Community Policing Division is responsible for developing community policing strategies and it has overall responsibility for community policing. This community policing under each division is for them to run their own community policing by talking to people in communities and in areas where they live. Even now with this thinking of taking the mobile bus to go around and talk with people, this provision would make that possible, and any arrest to be made can be done as suspects will be put inside the bus. That is what community policing is all about, Mr Chairman. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 339. Mr Chairman, I just want the Minister to explain the accounting treatment of item 0154-2153 Customs & Port Charges. I want to understand whether there is a policy now for one department of government paying another government department, and how is this reflected for accounting purposes in the budget.

There is an allocation of \$529,000 for customs & port charges. I can understand port charges paid to a statutory organization, which is a separate legal entity but when it comes to Customs it is a department of government. I just want to understand how. In fact it has been happening in 2008 as well. I just want to know the thinking behind this. Are we operating government ministries like a business charging another department and like that?

That is perfectly okay and if it is like that but maybe their accounting treatment of what is paid by another department is actually revenue accrue to another department. What is the thinking here?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, the title on item 0154-2153 - Customs & Port Charges is incorrect. The correct name title should be maintenance of patrol boats.

Mr Waipora: Page 338. Mr Chairman, I just want to know the allocation of \$60,000 for riot equipment. What sorts of riot equipments are going to be paid? Can the Honorable Minister explain?

Hon Manetoali: Mr Chairman, riot equipment means equipments for us during a riot and they are things like batons, handcuff, teargas, shield and so forth. They are things the Police would need during rioting.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, the second last item 0162-3039 - Emergency Rations. Who is this for?

Hon. Manetoali: Emergency rations are for the Police, especially when they go out on calls or during an emergency and the Police are deployed there is provision provided to take care of them.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, the flowery language used here to describe it makes it more serious. I think it is better to just use the word 'ration'. But anyway that is how we want it.

Mr Chairman, the other things is allocation for electricity under item 0162-2011. Is this real cost or is it picking up arrears too?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, that increase by \$1,650,000 is due to the Solomon Islands Government gradually taking on the responsibility from the Defence Cooperation of providing fuel to the Police Patrol Boats for fisheries surveillance, border patrols, search and rescue, and some other duties of the patrol boat.

Hon. Sogavare: Thank you for that explanation. Actually I am asking for item 0162-2011 - Electricity and Gas with a \$3.9million allocation, an increase of \$2.5million. That is a very big increase. Does that reflect the real cost of that expense in 2009 or is it picking up arrears of 2008?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, that subhead 2011 - Electricity and Gas is centralized for internal monitoring and better management.

Mr Maelanga: Page 340. Mr Chairman, I would like the Minister to clarify accounting code 0162-2120 - Hire of Shipping. There was provision for this in 2008 but in 2009 there is zero provision. I wonder whether Police logistics has enough boats and so there would be no need to hire any ships.

I want the Minister to explain why there is no allocation for this item which means there will be no hiring in 2009.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, the provision for hire of shipping comes under freight rather than charter.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0165-6015 - National Intelligence Unit. This unit is National Intelligence Unit too. Can the Minister explain what that particular expense item is for?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, as I see it there it is for the National Intelligence Unit.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I understand that, I mean the whole unit is the National Intelligence Unit. And I expect a specific activity there to support the work of the National Intelligence Unit, but we are instead financing the name. Is there any specific example of activities actually involved here of that particular item that is going to be funded? It was also provided for in 2008.

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, the amount that appears there is for admin work to cater for research work of officers in that unit going round to do intelligence gathering.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 346, just a general policy question on the Police Band. Mr Chairman, this Band is bringing pride to the nation, they especially win the hearts of a lot of people when this Band plays. Are there plans to maybe increase band members and improve the equipments too, Mr Chairman? That is one investment in the Police that I feel brings a lot of pride and adds to peace and unity in the country. Are there plans to further improve the Police Band?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, I agree with the Leader of Opposition that Police Band is the pride of our country and also the pride of the Police hence the government will, of course, look into what has been suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Tosika: Mr Chairman, just a general comment. When looking at the Ministry of Police I can see funds allocated for community policing throughout all the various sectors. Our people back in the rural areas do not feel community policing and yet funds were allocated for community policing.

The funds that we are seeing allocated here, how best are they going to be implemented so that it reaches our rural people, especially those who complained that police services did not reach them?

When the Foreign Relations Committee visited the provinces, this question was raised to us that police did not visit the people but there are funds allocated for that activity. How are you going to carry out policing so that it reaches the rural people with funds allocated for in the 2009 budget?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, funds have been allocated for police in provinces for community policing. The question is how best they will do their work of community policing. Mr Chairman, we will tell them to do their best in doing community policing work. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just a question on staff travel and transport on page 363 item 0478-2070. If this also caters for the \$1,000 each officer going on leave then it looks like this would not cater for the number of people who are employed in this particular unit, which by the look of the allocation is more than two people. If you look at other units in front of us very small amounts have been allocated.

Just for the Minister to comfort us, if that cost caters for leave because officers are entitled to \$1,000 and so if it runs short where are you going to get

money for this head that you have been telling us about earlier on, which is the \$1million allocation or where?

Hon. Manetoali: Mr Chairman, the answer is yes.

Head 283 -\$120,101,947 agreed to

Head 285 – Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0003-2108 – Outfit Allowance. What's the new policy on that? This is a new thing where we have this outfit allowance catered for under the Ministry when my understanding that this is a centralized expenditure either at the Prime Minister's Office or the Ministry of Finance? What is this outfit allowance for?

Hon. Magga: Mr Chairman, this is a mistake. It is the Ministry of Public Service that normally caters for this.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I cannot hear the Minister quite clearly but are we buying uniform for them. To boost morale is what I seem to hear from the Minister. What exactly are we doing here? Are we buying clothing for them or what is it.

Hon. Rini: Mr Chairman, this is provision to purchase surveyors' outfits like boots and uniforms lands officers working out in the field.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 388, we have only allocation for logistics like office expenses, radio communication, staff travel and transport, but there are no human beings in that particular Unit. Can the Minister explain where are these people staying and who is going to use these allocations?

Hon. Magga: Mr Chairman, the new subhead should be named Valuation Unit and not Land Administration Management Unit. Due to the computer language program at the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, it may not be possible to change the narration until a new system replaces it.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I get it from the Minister that this is a new Unit, Land Valuation. So where are these people remunerated under, which items and sub items in the emolument expenditures?

Hon. Magga: The Ministry of Finance and Treasury has been notified in writing to segregate payroll charges that are still contained within LAM payroll and transferred to this Head.

Mr Waipora: Page 387, Mr Chairman, on land rent, there is a substantial amount of \$1,270,255 collected in 2007 and then all of a sudden it was zero in 2008, and then zero again in 2009. I just want to get an explanation from the Minister why this drop and what land is this?

Hon. Magga: This has moved to land acquisition on page 393.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, thank you for that clarification. I want to go back to the question I asked and may be speak in simple terms so that we can understand it. Where are the emoluments of that unit come under? The unit that you said is not supposed to be Land Administration Management Unit but supposed to be Land Valuation Unit, which should be the correct title of that Unit. That is the explanation we got. My simple question is we have supporting logistic expenses there but the human beings manning this unit is what I am asking about; where are they going to be paid under, Mr Chairman?

Hon. Magga: Currently they are paid under Land Administration.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, when you look at page 388, which is the Land Administration Unit, the emoluments are not there. There is no allocation for emoluments and so if they are paid under this particular item and sub-item, I can contest clearly from what is presented here that there is no such thing like that.

Hon. Magga: If you look at page 393 it is paid under Lands Administration. There is a big increase.

Hon. Sogavare: Sorry, Minister, you are humming and murmuring there. Can you speak loud and explain it so that we can know what is going on here. Where is the page? What page is it?

Hon. Magga: Page 393.

Hon. Sogavare: Okay, thank you very much, that explains it. We are still surviving.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just on fees, the requirement of financial instructions. When were these fees on page 389 last reviewed, and are there intentions to review them?

Hon. Magga: Yes, Mr Chairman, we will review them.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, Lands Administration Operations Group, civil service salaries, item 0344-1010 to 1015. Looking at the establishment register it is only increased by one staff. Mr Chairman, there is a substantial increase by \$787,000 for basic personal emoluments; the overall increase is \$850,000. Can the Minister give some rough explanations as to why that happens?

Hon. Magga: Mr Chairman, it is to cater for increase in staff in the various branches.

Head 285 - \$17,819,254 agreed to

Head 286 – Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 408 – item 0441 on the emoluments items. We only have allocation for salaries but where is the allocation for logistics to support this group, the Economic Sector, Mr Chairman?

Hon. Abana: It does not mean this Head does not exist but that is done in order to ensure there is correct posting in the divisions.

Hon. Sogavare: I am sorry but I did not hear what is really happening.

Hon Abana: I will repeat the answer again. That is done to correct posting errors within this division, but it does not mean it is non existent. This is doing the accounting system, which the Minister of Finance can further elaborate on. You can see on pages 4 and 10 that other charges are also included and so it is just rearrangement of postings.

Hon. Sogavare: Can the Minister confirm that the same applies on social services? All these other costs are taken up at the National Planning Division.

Hon. Abana: The same also applies on social services.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, what about page 410?

Hon Abana: Yes, the same arrangement also applies there.

Hon Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0480-2091 and 0480-2092 – overseas travel for MPs and public servants. There is a very big allocation there. How many overseas trips is the Minister planning to take in 2009?

Hon. Abana: It is actually 8 known trips, of which 4 will be to Europe and Africa, and that is the ACP, there is one for the LDC depending on where the meeting will be held, there is one in the Pacific for the post Forum dialogue and there is one tentative for the Millennium Challenge Fund, which depends very much on the new government of Palmer when that policy will be under review. It would be in the next meeting that we will know the way forward whether we will continue with that or President Obama elect will come up with another policy. Then there is the lead ups to the Accra Declaration from the Paris Declaration in 2009 and from time to time invitations from our donors.

Head 286- \$5,601,600 agreed to

Head 290 – Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 464. Item 0003-2011 on electricity and gas for \$1.1million, is that real cost for 2009 or are we also picking up arrears of 2008?

Hon. Leni: Last year this was underestimated. This is reflection of real cost we are projecting next year.

Hon Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 466, although we do not vote for revenue items, but I want to raise a question on it. Item 0272-0105 – Fisheries License Overseas, when are these licenses due for review?

Hon. Leni: Mr Chairman, review is now ongoing and it is in the process of completion. The expected revised rates should appear in the supplementary appropriation of 2009.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, 0027-2028– Transshipment levy, what is the current rate used to charge the transshipment levy?

Hon. Leni: Mr Chairman, I do not exactly know what the rate is.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, maybe later on the Minister will provide the rate as this is quite a very important revenue item because ships are floating everywhere in the harbor here and if the rates are not yet reviewed they should be reviewed now.

Mr Chairman: The Minister will take note of that.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, the community education program is a continuing activity, item 0278-6096. What is actually involved in this program and how successful was this program in 2008?

Hon. Leni: Mr Chairman, community education is onshore fisheries extension work and it involves training of local communities on onshore fishing operations. We are doing community based training at this time in the various provinces, including our NGO partners.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, could the Minister just explain the expenditure item that appears in 0282-6768 – Observer Program Expansion, a new allocation of \$342,585.000?

Hon. Leni: Mr Chairman, there is expansion in our observers program. This quarter we are preparing for more work for observers because of our involvement in the PNA Resolution that we have just made in Palau sometime this year. Right now we are short of observers because some of the observers used to double the vessels. The PNA conclusion suggests that for one boat there should be one observer. That is between the PNA groupings so that proper records and data of fish catch in the seas are kept.

Mr Soalaoi: Mr Chairman, hire shipping has an allocation of \$28,000. Can the Minister inform the committee what kind of ship will be hired because this allocation is very small?

Hon. Leni: Mr Chairman, the Ministry of Fisheries also hires ships. Sometimes when we have goods and services which are part of our bilateral agreement with our partners they would give us equipments like canoes, engines and generators from the OFCF for the fisheries centres. Under those circumstances there is need to hire ships to transport materials from here to locations in our provinces.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I think the question by the Member for Temotu Vattu is whether this allocation is enough. Is it adequate for that big work the Minister has explained to us?

Hon. Leni: This is under marketing and business development and so we think it is adequate because of the location of the places that we used to hire ships to carry the fish.

The one we regularly use is the Tatamba Fisheries centre. Maybe the wording here does not properly reflect it but we have eskies and so where it is necessary we can hire small boats to bring those fish eskies to Honiara to be sold.

Head 290 - \$12,335,809 agreed to

Committee suspended for lunch break

(Committee of Supply resumes)

Head 287 - Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0004-1099 – recruitment expenses. Can the Minister explain what this allocation is for?

Hon. Gukuna: Mr Chairman, this is for recruitment of admin and accounts officers in the Ministry.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, what really are we incurring here because recruitment is also happening in other Ministries but they do not have this expense? What really are we incurring here? What are we paying?

Hon. Gukuna: Mr Chairman, this amount is very small. But we also have costs pertaining to advertisement on papers and all that. But you will see some figures appearing on that page that have not been cleared when we separated from the Ministry of Commerce. Remember about two years ago we were one Ministry and then we separated and some of these costs still float around where they end up with us and also end up with them and so we are still trying to clear these costs and that is why some of these are still with us. Hopefully it will settle down in the next year or so and we will see more realistic figures to this cost. But some of these are due to the fact that we separated from one ministry and we are still trying to clear these costs. Thank you Chairman.

Hon. Sogavare: I am not sure whether we can take that explanation because all the ministries next year are also going to do recruitment because you have provided \$45million for recruitment of vacant posts. Are we saying that this expense will also appear in every ministry? They do not have that expense? What really are we going to use this \$15,000 for? If it is for recruitment expenses then it should be in all the other ministries. I thought this should really be with the Ministry of Public Service.

Hon. Gukuna: Mr Chairman, I have already explained it. It is true that recruitment is done by the Ministry of Public Service, but we are still bearing some of the costs, like cost to the Solomon Star on advertisement of posts, which we are still paying. But eventually we would want to get rid of that cost sometimes when the Ministry of Public Service is fully responsible, but we have been paying some of these costs last year and this year, and I am sure we will pay some more next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I will try and swallow that explanation, but if it is like that then we should expect that expense to also appear in all the other ministries as well. But this is a special treatment for the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Is that the case Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Wale: Mr. Chairman, perhaps to help shed a bit little light. Of course, the Public Service in consultation with the ministries as part of the recruitment process is advertisement, and half a page in the Solomon Star and half a page in the other two papers is talking about thousand dollars already just for a week. \$15,000 is not a lot of money when you are talking about recruitment in that sense.

Now, the other Ministries, I think they did not put it as recruitment expenses because it is probably covered in other expenses or charges like in admin costs. For instance in my Ministry I know that adverts are going out and we are paying for those as opposed to the Public Service paying for them. In that sense they are covered under some of the heads inside the Ministry. So although it is not explicitly called recruitment expenses in the other heads, but there is cost being incurred under recruitment. In that sense this is being more honest.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, we will try to swallow that explanation. Can I just ask the Minister how many trips overseas are you envisaging next year under item 000-4291 and 000-4292?

Hon. Gukuna: Mr Chairman, for the Minister, there should be two (2) trips. This year there are many opportunities to go overseas but I do not want to go because I do not want to go overseas. There was only one that I attended because I had to go otherwise I would not have. But next year my officers are saying that I must attend two trips. So we will just see next year if I am going or not.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 419, item 0004-3100 - house rent, there is an increase of \$727,945 for house rent. Does that reflect an increase in the number of houses we renting for officers or why this increase? Can Minister explain?

Hon. Gukuna: I think what is happening here is that this budget cost is no longer handled by the Public Service but is now pushed to individual ministries and so we are going to carry that cost in the Ministry and that is why the increase in the cost line next year.

Mr. Waipora: What is this shelving of records on page 420 with an allocation of \$100,000?

Hon. Gukuna: Shelving comes from the word 'shelve' which means storing or put it in a shelf. That is what it means. It is just a fancy word to mean storing of records. It is to do with record storage.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I want the Minister to inform the House of item 0510-4094 - Eco-tourism Development Grants. How many eco-tourism operators are we going to assist next year?

Hon. Gukuna: Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest to the Leader of Opposition to ask that question when we come to the development budget because this allocation is just assistance to eco-tours but the real eco-tourism project is in the development budget. When we come to the development budget we can give you an answer to that.

Hon. Sogavare: So, Mr. Chairman, what is this allocation for? This is grant.

Hon. Gukuna: As I said, this is assistance towards tour groups. But eco tourism operators are in the development budget, and so I will give you an answer to that when we come to the development budget.

Mr. Waipora: Subventions and Grants for \$611,820. Is this subvention for the Tourist Authority?

Hon. Gukuna: Yes, that is right.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0600-3010, what is the policy on purchase of government vehicles this time. There is an allocation of motor vehicles for \$259,000. Maybe the Minister for Infrastructure can help out on this as well.

Hon. Gukuna: This provision was put in there in anticipation of the preparation for the Pacific Festival of Arts in 2012. We anticipate that as of next year we really have to start doing something on the ground and so we are hoping to get some vehicles and start getting things ready for that festival.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, so what we are saying is that budget allocation for purchase of vehicles is now with the line ministries, and the Ministry of Transport is just there for purchasing of vehicles but budget allocation is now in the line ministries. What is the policy now in terms of purchasing of government vehicles? How do we manage that, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Gukuna: Mr Chairman, this is not a policy issue, but we are looking at the festival. You can look at it as a project but it is totally separate from the vehicle policy. I think the Ministry of Works is in a better position to talk about the vehicle policy. I am talking about this particular provision that we are looking at entirely for the festival in 2012.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, am I getting it right that we are preparing for 2012? Can we get that confirmed?

Hon. Gukuna: Yes, it is in preparation of the 2012 Pacific Arts Festival. It is a long way yet but it is a very big event. Let me just give you an example. American Samoa spent about USD\$5million for that festival. Therefore, in order for us to put up something closer to that scale we probably have to spend the same kind of money. Thank you Chairman.

Head 287 -\$9,009,867 agreed to

Head 288 – Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Employment

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, again for the Minister to confirm to us, how many overseas trips are you going to take next year under item 0002-2092?

Hon. Hilly: Mr Chairman, only one trip for the Minister.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 436. Mr. Chairman, this is an opportune time for the Minister to brief Parliament on the success of this internal marketing program. Last year there was an increase in allocation by \$310,410. It looks like the program was successful this year and so can the Minister brief Parliament what you have done this year.

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, this increase is trying to reflect that we will be doing a lot of promotion of locally made products internally and regionally next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I just want the Minister to inform Parliament of the fees and charges under income, when were they last reviewed and the intention for review.

Hon. Hilly: They were reviewed just last month.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, there is a new allocation on subscriptions to organizations, item 0185-4040. Which organization is the Immigration Department subscribing to?

Hon. Hilly: I will tell you later on. There is an initial to this organization and it is not properly written and so I will tell you later on. But it is 'WAITA' and it must some kind of a world organization.

Mr. Waipora: Purchase of passports, the amount here is \$1,037,000 in 2008 but there is zero allocation in 2009. I need explanation from the Minister as to why there is zero provision in 2009.

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, we have just bought new passports and so there is no need to buy any new passports next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman page 441, all those emolument items on 0186-1010. Post has actually increased by one for 2009 if you look at page 180 of the establishment register but there is an increase of \$508,000 allocation. Can the Minister explain what that increase is for?

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, quite a lot of these increases are derived from the fact that this year a lot of the civil services salaries were underestimated, so that is one of the reasons for this increase. The reason that have been put before me as an explanatory note is that the increase goes in line with the approved level of employment of public servants.

Hon. Sogavare: Item code 0186-4030, it looks like there is going to be a very big activity in 2008 because the budget to support that activity is \$1.1million, and that has been reduced to \$245,000 in 2009. What could be the reason for that? Are we not going to hold any more conferences and seminars in 2009, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, we are expecting that the number of conferences and seminars we will be organizing or attending will not be as much as what we have this year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, so it is no longer an important part of the activity of the Ministry to pursue the Ministry's objective. Is that what we are saying?

Hon. Hilly: Not really, Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest cost, an annual cost to the Ministry, especially under Labor is to attend the annual Labour Minister's conference in Geneva. That is a very expensive exercise. The Minister does not only go by himself but takes in the employers and trade unions and all that, and so we are trying to scale that down.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, page 445, item 0188-3233 - purchase of OBM/Canoes. We have been start purchasing canoes since 2007, 2008, and we will purchase again in 2009. How many canoes do we already have, and why do we need more canoe and outboard motors. How many are in stock now, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, we have outboard engines and canoes for our provincial people to enable them do their work in moving around. This allocation is just enough for only one OBM for next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, item 0189-2018 - Publicity and Promotion, we seem to emphasize this every year. What is the emphasis of those promotions when it comes to price control and consumer affairs?

Hon. Hilly: This is to cover weekly radio programs on consumer affairs.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, item 0189-2105- Touring/Sitting Allowance, policy on sitting allowance. Who is this paid to? Is this for public servants or people outside of the public service, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, we have this division called the Price Control Committee that usually sits to look at the price of fuel. It is this committee that is paid this sitting allowance – the Price Advisory Committee.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, what is the composition of that committee? Is it comprised entirely of public servants or people outside too? It is actually touring/sitting allowance.

Hon. Hilly: The present chairman of the committee is somebody outside of the public service and this committee works very closely with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Waipora: Page 446, I just want to ask about provincial accommodation for technical assistance. There is a substantial amount there for 2009 - \$149,341. I just want to ask whether accommodation means houses in the province, and who owns those houses. As far as I know when the cooperative society division and business division still exist, they have houses and now they are not living there and so the accommodation was transferred to the Labor Department.

Hon. Hilly: Mr. Chairman, this is under the Industrial Development Division. The Ministry used to have technical people overseas who go down to the provinces and help out with the work. Today we do not have those houses, some need a lot of repairs, the houses are there, unfortunately in some provinces, the provincial governments took over the buildings of the Ministry, and so we are losing some of the houses.

Head 288 - \$23,220,345 agreed to

Head 289– Communication and Civil Aviation

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just the same question that I am asking every Minister, and that is item 0003-2091 and 2092 overseas trips. How many trips does the Minister envisage to take in 2009?

Hon. Lonamei: Mr. Chairman, usually there is one (1) trip that the Minister of Communication always attend, and that is on Post Office, and it is a trip taken after every four years and that was done last year. But this next trip is to go and look at areas where there is need for liberalization of telecommunications.

Hon. Sogavare: What is the progress on the review of the Telekom Agreement? What is its status?

Hon. Lonamei: Mr Chairman, the government's taskforce and Our Telekom are negotiating this time. The Ministry is waiting for the outcome of the negotiation.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 457, item 0511-7500 on Civil Aviation Special Fund. This is reflected as expenditure and also taken up as income in the previous page.

Can the Minister inform the House of the expenditure items that are actually taken up by this allocation or are we yet to determine what is to be incurred on this? This is just taken as a lump sum but the specific areas that this fund will be used on, is it the case that it will be determined during the course of the year or are they itemized anywhere in here?

Hon. Lonamei: Mr Chairman, is the Leader of Opposition asking about Civil Aviation Special Fund.

Hon Sogavare: Yes, Mr Chairman, it is taken up as revenue on 0511-0820 and it is also taken up as expenditure on 0511-7500 and so it basically squares out for the purpose of budgeting. But it didn't tell us what it is going to actually incur and in fact it was not itemized here. What are the procedures? Is it the case that what would be incurred in the use of this fund in the course of 2009 and so it is just reflected this way? What are the accounting processes that will be applied for accountability purposes when we actually use this fund in 2009?

Hon. Lonamei: Mr Chairman, yes we receive revenue for the use of our airspace. The expenses here will mostly go towards maintaining of the air service. Others will go for airfields, airports etc. and this is actually administered by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry will have to provide financial report on what the funds are used for and supposed to be presented to Parliament. Hopefully, Mr Chairman, this year it will distributed in all our pigeonholes so that all of us know how the Ministry used this special fund.

At the end of this year we must do the same too. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Tosika: Mr Chairman, when I look at maintenance and airfield, it also talks about the same in the development budget.

Can you differentiate between the development budget and the recurrent expenditure because it talks about the same thing, and that is maintenance of airfield and upgrade of airfields, which is also in the development budget?

Hon Lonamei: Maintenance of airfields in the recurrent budget here is for maintenance of current airfields. If the same one is in the development estimates then it is for upgrading of airports earmarked by the Ministry to improve with development funds.

Head 289 - \$12,359,264 agreed to

Head 291 - Ministry of Public Service

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0060-1023 on emolument related costs. What would have been the reason for the big reduction in personal emoluments?

Hon. Tozaka: The reduction is because the reform program in the division has shifted, the salaries of the staff to officers on page 494 under Human Resources Management and Development Division. It is reduction in administration and increase in human resources management.

Hon. Sogavare: Items 0060-3100 - house rent and office rent. Can the Minister confirm whether that is for Public Service in general or just for the Ministry of Public Service? There is \$1million allocation for house rents and office rental for \$4.1million. It is increased by \$2million.

Hon. Tozaka: Mr Chairman, this is for public officers in the Ministry.

Mr Waipora: Page 487 - Ministerial Committees. I suppose this is a new arrangement for the establishment of a committee and that is why in 2007 there was nothing there and also in 2008 but now in 2009 it has an allocation of \$50,000 for ministerial committees. I would like to know what this ministerial committee is.

Hon. Tozaka: Sorry, I have problems with my ear. This allocation is for committees in the Ministry.

Hon Sogavare: What is the government's thinking on uniforms because it makes the public service look good. What is the policy on uniform because some ministries have uniforms while others not. Is there any plan by the government to assist ministries to buy uniforms for their officers? For that the Ministry of Public Service has an allocation of \$100,000. Is that allocation to provide for whose uniform? Is it for public officers or who?

Hon Tozaka: I think an important role of the Public Service is the corporate image of ministries, and one of the needs there is for public officers to identify themselves which ministry or organization they work in. In order to boost the morale and commitment of public officers, one of the things that was suggested is for public officers to wear uniforms.

Hon Sogavare: In fact, we do not have quarrel over that. That is a very good idea. I just want to get the thinking of the government that if this is something that boosts the morale of public officers then may be it should be introduced throughout the public service. Allocate \$100,000 for every ministry so that every public officer is in uniform so that they look good. It looks like it is not uniform right now because some ministries have uniforms and others not. If this is an issue that is needed to boost the morale of public officers then it is something the government needs to look into and applies across the board for all public officers in the ministries.

Hon Tozaka: This is a one off thing. This is for purchase of new uniforms for officers in the Ministry of Public Service. The other ministries are subject to their own ministries.

Mr Waipora: On local supplementation scheme. What is this a supplementation of? Is it supplementation of officers on contract or expatriates?

Hon Sikua: I think the MP for West Makira is looking at the wrong line in terms of the increase of local supplementation scheme. The increase to the local supplementation scheme is \$84,563 and not what the MP has said.

Hon. Sogavare: These units on pages 493, 494 and 495 have human beings on them but no allocation for logistic support. Can the Minister explain to us where the needs of those human beings are catered for?

Hon Tozaka: This is similar to other ministries. The particular unit I was referring to have had their salaries moved from administration to these

particular units. The bodies are there. We have just shifted them to here. Instead of the headquarters paying them, this unit will pay for them.

Head 291 - \$20,490,997 agreed to

Head 292 – Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs

Hon Sogavare: Page 503, item 0155-6089 – land acquisition. Which land?

Hon Kaua: This is for Gizo, Auki and Kira Kira.

Hon Sogavare: We take it now that the statutory salary of the Attorney General's Office now comes under the normal salary of that office. I assume that that is now the case because there is a big reduction from \$980,000 to \$130,000. We take it that he is now paid at the level prescribed.

Hon. Kaua: Yes, that is correct.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0157-4121 – subventions and grants. Can the Minister tell us to whom is the Attorney General's Office paying subventions and grants?

Hon. Kaua: This is grants to the Financial Intelligence Unit.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0157-6001 legislation review, which legislation is up for review in 2009 under the Attorney General's Office?

Hon. Kaua: Mr Chairman, this is for review of legislation like what is done in other ministries.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister confirm that they are not reviewing any specific legislation under the Attorney General's Office but it is a cost to assist the Attorney General review acts in other ministries. Is that correct Mr Chairman?

Hon. Kaua: Yes, that is correct.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, page 507 - statutory salary, and I just want to question why there is no housing allowance for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Hon. Kaua: His salary will be met in the existing payroll.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I did not get that properly, but my specific question is, why is there no housing allowance for the Director of Public Prosecution?

Hon. Kaua: That is true but it will be met within the budget. It is not shown there but it will be met within the budget.

Hon Sogavare: Page 509. I guess the answer would be the same too for the statutory salary on page 509, which is for the Chairman of the Law Reform Commission because he does not have any housing allowance too. Can the Minister confirm that the answer is the same in that it is taken up in the budget of Justice and Legal Affairs?

Hon. Kaua: Yes, it is the same, as it will be met within the budget.

Hon. Tozaka: The housing allowance of the Law Reform Commission is under item 229-0159-1001

Hon Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister – which page? Housing allowance is actually a certain percentage of the salary, and I think it works out to about 20% of the basic salary and this figure is neatly almost 20% of the basic salary. And so it is for those people working in here paid under headquarters and admin. We just accept the explanation given and hopefully somehow you will find the housing allowance of those two big bosses?

Mr Chairman: If we can take some of us as an example. When a rented house is occupied by an officer he is not entitled for housing allowance. May be that is the reason or it may not be.

Hon. Sogavare: I am only probably familiar with the case of Members of Parliament and that is governed under the PER. But for people holding statutory post is not clear. I do not know whether there are special regulations that cover their terms and conditions. May be we will leave it there because we are going to wreck our brains.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I know we do not vote on income, but the Registrar General's Office, is that the only revenue this office is going to collect on land registrations fees and business registration fees? I thought that there are

more fees this particular office is collecting. If so, where are they reflected, the other revenues that this Division is used to collecting?

Hon. Kaua: The fees are lumped together with other fees. The fees are minimal and that is why it is within this head

Head 292 -\$20,125,388 agreed to

Head 293 – Ministry of Home Affairs

Hon. Sogavare: Page 520, Mr Chairman, item 0002- 6132 - Audit Fees. Which entities are yet to be audited and will be audited in 2009 under headquarters and admin in the Ministry of Home Affairs?

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, this provision is to cover the auditing of the 30th anniversary celebration accounts and other events that happened within the Ministry. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, there is a substantial increase to item 0002- 6221 on promotion of national identity. There was an allocation of \$11,255 in 2008 and the government sees whatever is very important and has allocated \$210,656 in 2009. What exactly are we doing here?

Hon. Tora: We are anticipating that this allocation will go for wide publicity and promotion of the national identity of Solomon Islands. For instance, national costumes like flags. Also if the current government sees it fit to redesign our national flag, and that is what that provision caters for.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, redesign of the national flag must have wider consultation with everyone who is involved in designing the flag. It is dear hear to the heart of people who designed it right from the beginning. But thank you for the explanation.

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, it is only a suggestion and that is why I said that if any government of the day sees it fit, this allocation will go for that kind of thing. Like for instance, small flags that are raised during our national days and also in schools or may be things that can be worn and so it can be given to our big people during big events. For example, neck ties that the Ministry has during our 30th anniversary celebrations and other souvenirs. Thank you

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, I do not know whether the government sees the wisdom to continue with this fund – 0300-6777 - disaster relief and rehabilitation special fund. Just a view I am holding here that it would be a good if we continue with that fund. We should continue to feed and accumulate funds in that account so that it acts as a first line of response by government. So that instead of appealing on day one, we move straight to this special account we have and use it to assist people affected by disasters. Just that I want to share this thought with the government on what is the government's view on this. I thought it is a good idea that we establish that kind of fund so that the government can respond quickly when disaster strikes instead of waiting one or two weeks appealing for assistance, Mr Chairman.

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, I wholeheartedly agree with the comments made by the Leader of Opposition. If you look at item 0300-2027, a substantial amount of money has been allocated to meet emergency relief supplies in any disaster.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister direct us to which item and sub-item he is talking about?

Hon. Abana: Under the Envelope B of EU there is a fund that is on standby for disaster and is at call, that facility. The government can rely on that fund when there is a disaster, and this is under the EU's Envelope B. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, but that is not reflected in the Budget. Can the Minister confirm that?

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, it is on page 521, item 0300- Regional Disaster Relief, and as I said there is an amount there allocated for that purpose.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, lottery receipts under revenue. Who is paying this revenue and how is it calculated or determined?

Mr Chairman, although we do not vote for it but I am asking who is paying this revenue and how is it calculated it? There is a substantial decrease of that revenue too.

Hon Tora: Mr Chairman, in regards to lottery receipts, the Cabinet has just approved an increase to the fees, the annual earnings of lotteries like the casinos, and so we anticipate \$250,000 as the estimated amount to be collected next year.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, there is actually a reduction on this revenue by \$2.2million. My question is, who is paying this revenue, and how is it calculated?

Hon. Tora: There are two casinos in Honiara that pay this revenue. At what rate they are paying, I cannot provide it, but the Minister of Finance should be in a better position to provide that information. Thank you.

Hon. Wale: Mr Chairman, just to shed a bit of light into that question. It would appear that this amount would have been grossly underestimated. It is 15% of the takings of casinos. That is the revised rate the Cabinet has approved. It looks like this amount has been underestimated. Thank you.

Mr Waipora: Mr Chairman, I would like to express my concern on accounting code 293-0301-6070 – Citizenship Committee Expenses. I think you provided provision for this committee in your budget, but if this committee is to do more work it must be allocated more funds.

I feel that some cases of citizenship in this country must be reconsidered because they are not right. That is what I think. It is not only this year, last year or previous years but may be two or three years ago.

Mr Chairman, this committee is very important to protect the interest of our country to make sure people coming into the country come in through the right way. Although there are good investors in the country but some of them must be reconsidered, and if this committee does not meet to review citizenships and if our staff are working by themselves they can be taken for a ride and will do things that are not right. I want to express my concern on this issue about this citizen committee, a very important committee in your Ministry that the honorable Minister must try to review and strengthen it again. And I think this amount of \$24,041 is not sufficient.

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, I would agree with my colleague the Member for West Makira. I think we are working towards what he is concerned about to see that they are protected. I know this provision is not sufficient, but later in the year we can increase it. I think that kind of sentiment you raised my colleague should be put in a form of question so that we can provide a more elaborate and detailed answer to it. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Just a view on item 0308-6216 - Registration of Voters. It should be an ongoing exercise every year that voters register are reviewed. There are

people coming of voting age every year and I thought there should be an allocation that continues to get that process going.

An election is coming in year 2010 and in fact we have 2009 to prepare for 2010, and the only budget that could have taken up that particular work is the 2009 Budget but there is no allocation for registration of voters in next year's budget. I am wondering whether that that particular activity is going to be undertaken in 2009, and if it is, where is it funded under?

Hon. Tora: Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the Leader of Opposition for that very important question so that everybody can vote in the next election. For the information of the Leader of Opposition and also every one of us registration of voters is catered for in the development budget.

Mr Soalaoi: Can the Minister explain to the Committee why the Ulawa/Ugi Bye election is still there in the budget? Although it is zero rated what is the reason it is still there.

Hon Tora: May be they see me taking this portfolio and that is why it is still there. The bye election has been held in 2004 and so it could be a typing error. But I will ensure it is removed from there.

Mr Kengava: Page 527 on item 293-0308-6074- Constituency Boundary Committee Expenses. The allocation for next is quite substantial. I just want to know whether there are plans to review the constituency boundaries.

Hon Tora: The answer is yes.

Head 293 - \$22,060,345 agreed to

Mr Chairman: Honorable Members, it is now 4:30 p.m. and in accordance with *Standing Order* 10 (2), business of this Committee is now interrupted".

Chairman returns to the Chair; Parliament resumes and the Chairman becomes Speaker

Mr Speaker: Mr Parliament is now resumed. I understand the honorable Prime Minister wishes the business of the committee to continue, and so I shall ask him to make the necessary arrangements so that that can be so.

Hon Sikua: Mr Speaker, to ensure that we get to the end of the First Schedule today, I seek your consent to move that Standing Order 10 be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 81.

Mr Speaker: Permission granted.

Hon. Sikua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move that *Standing Order 10* be suspended in accordance with *Standing Order 81* to permit the continuation of the business of the House until adjourned by the Speaker under *Standing Order 10(5)*".

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, the question is that *Standing Order 10* be suspended in accordance with *Standing Order 81* to permit the continuation of the business of the House until adjourned by the Speaker under *Standing Order 10 (5)*".

Standing Order 10 stands suspended and business of the Committee of Supply continues after 4.30 pm

Speaker returns to the Clerk's Table; Committee continues, Speaker becomes Chairman once more]

Committee of Supply resumes

Head 294 – Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace

Hon Sogavare: Item 0318-2091, a standing question given to all Ministers. How many trips is the Minister planning for 2009?

Hon Iduri: Mr Chairman, there will one trip or two trips for the Minister next year.

Hon. Sogavare: We are asking that question just to follow up from the Prime Minister's explanation that the heads for overseas trips are itemized in the ministries are based on trips that are actually calculated and the number of trips that will be taken. Only those trips that come up during the course of the year

will be funded under the Prime Minister's Office. If the Minister is not going to take any overseas trip next year then that allocation is going to be there unused.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, in a situation where there is no overseas trip envisaged or planned by the Minister responsible, what happens is that I am trying to cater for at least one overseas trip per Minister under the Prime Minister's Office overseas travel budget. If the allocation for MP's travel is not sufficient there then that can be covered under the PM's office.

Hon. Sogavare: Item 0318-6301 – Truth and Reconciliation Commission. That as we understand is to assist the work of the Commission through the Act that we have passed. Can the Minister just briefly outline the plan of action of the Ministry in using that big allocation of \$3.3million, just very briefly, Mr Chairman?

Hon. Iduri: Mr Chairman, this year we have about \$3,065,499 and that fund was used up in steering committee and logistic costs for the office. By October this year it should be about \$900,000. When this \$1million is available we are going to use it for procurement of materials for the setting up of the office. We already have an office and so this allocation is to start off the commission proper next year. Then we have again an allocation in 2009 for \$3million, which is roughly about \$5million budgeted for.

Head 294 \$7,933,517 agreed to

Head 295 – Ministry of Mines and Energy

Hon. Sogavare: Item 0271-3010 – Motor vehicles. Is the Ministry going to buy a new vehicle next year? How many vehicles do we have in the pool of the Ministry at this time?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr Chairman, the allocation there is for one vehicle to be used for services within the energy sector.

Mr Waipora: Mr Chairman, how many houses is the Ministry renting for its staff for this amount of \$836,160 on page 140? How many houses?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr Chairman, unfortunately, I do not have those figures because Ministers do not carry around figures on operational issues like that.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, we do not want to be defensive here. We thought that information like this is to support your budget allocation and these are information you should have at your figure tips. But anyway we accept the Minister's explanation on that one.

Page 542, the income figures, when were these fees and charges last reviewed and are there intentions to view?

Hon. Huniehu: The answer is yes.

Mr Soalaoi: Mr Chairman, page 542, item 0271-0244 – Gold Dealers Licence of \$51,500. I am interested to know how many dealers we do have. Can the Minister inform the committee how much is the license of gold dealers? How much is one licence.

Hon. Huniehu: About \$2,000.

Mr Waipora: Mr Chairman, I am asking a question on house rent because we are fighting over houses and vehicles and so that information is very important. In your taking over of the government it was the houses and vehicles that we were fighting about so much so that some of us were summoned to appear before the court. Therefore, we want to know how many houses the government is renting. The PSs and CAOs should provide Ministers with such information.

Hon. Huniehu: Mr Chairman, the answer is 29 houses.

Hon. Sogavare: Petroleum storage charges on page 544, revenue item 0274-0065. This was reduced from \$1,500,000 to \$385,000. What is the reason for that reduction? I thought this is an annual fixed amount paid to that revenue head, Mr Chairman?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr Chairman, can I ask the questioner to repeat the question because I lost my ear phone whilst trying to listen to him?

Hon. Sogavare: I think the Minister should actually bring his transistor radio with him so that it would be more effective. The question now is on revenue head 0274-0065 - Petroleum Storage Fees. My understanding is that there is a fix sum paid to that particular revenue head every year. Now there is a big reduction here from 2008 original budget it is \$1.5million, and in fact it was revised down to \$350,000 and we are envisaging to collect \$385,000 in 2009. Can

the Minister explain how this revenue works and how much are we expecting to collect every year.

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, this relates to the Noro Sinking Fund and the amount that appears there is what we are expecting to collect.

Hon. Tosika: This is just a general question. Early this year when we went through the supplementary budget, I asked a question on the continental shelf that Solomon Islands has a claim of right over. As I understand it, next year in 2009 if we do not make a claim before that time then that right might shift to other countries. That part in Ontong Java is one of the largest seabeds in the world and the opportunity that Solomon Islands has is in terms of resource base, and that is something we must achieve before 2009 and 2009 is just around the corner.

When I look through the recurrent and development budget, I did not sight any allocation for this project. I just want to know where is the allocation for this project which you have said that in 2009 you are going to formulate it and forwarded to the UN.

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, I wish to assure the MP questioner that we are well within achieving our plan to comply by May next year. The Ministry has requested contingencies warrants for allocation of funds and we are confident that we will comply by May next year. Thank you.

Mr. Tosika: Thank you for that assurance. I am sure that by May next year, Solomon Islands will not be disadvantaged in acquiring this continental shelf.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0279-6063 – Laboratory Running Costs. There is no allocation for this but the concern is like this. Can the Minister confirm whether the Ministry has a laboratory and what is the status of that laboratory?

The reasoning is that I thought whatever people are exploiting our resources, we should be the one doing the testing in our laboratory. That particular activity should be controlled by the Solomon Islands Government.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to know whether the laboratory is still there and what is the condition of the laboratory? If not, can the Minister explain why did we discontinue having a laboratory in the Ministry for the government to take control of its own testing?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, we still have the laboratory there.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is not properly answering my question. What is the condition of that laboratory? In 2007 we have a very small allocation there of \$1,480 for the running cost of that laboratory. I want to know whether that laboratory still operates and if it is, what is its condition?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is using new technology.

Mr. Soalaoi: Mr. Chairman, page 547, Land Acquisition. Can the Minister inform Parliament which lands is the Ministry ready to purchase?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, this is in relation to the Gold Ridge and Isabel mines.

Mr. Waipora: Mr. Chairman, still on the same item of land acquisition. I want to ask the Minister to confirm to me that this allocation for land acquisition also includes acquiring of land at Furo for hydropower? Is that amount enough to acquire land in Furo closer to Kira Kira?

Hon. Huniehu: Mr. Chairman, can the MP wait until we come to the development budget before he asks that question.

Head 295 - \$12,409,639 agreed to

Head 296 – National Judiciary

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to match the establishment register to this budget. Can the Minister direct us to which page in the establishment register is the headquarter admin featured so that we know exactly how many people are employed in this new unit here?

Hon. Kaua: Mr. Chairman, the creation of new centres is what is causing these increases.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I am looking at the National Judiciary where there is listing of posts at the High Court, the Judicial Division, Support Services and Accounts. So it is just for the Minister to direct us at which page it relates to here, on this allocation of \$1,048,198 on emoluments. How many people is this for?

Hon. Kaua: Page 553 only shows one and since it has been divided page 553 is no longer there. It shows that in 2009 they are moving to a new centre.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, I do not get that answer. My concern is that we need to know how many people are catered for in this allocation of \$1,048,000, which does not seem to be featured in the establishment register of the National Judiciary. But it is for headquarters and admin.

I note that under High Court, there is judicial division and also support services, and so I assume that they would be under these. It says one Under Secretary, one Chief Admin Officer, senior clerical officer and registry, it listed down the people and it also listed the accounts section. Are those catered for in this allocation of \$1million?

Hon. Sikua: Mr. Chairman, that would appear to be the case. Page 221 of the establishment register you would be looking at staff under support services, accounts and that should add up to the number of people with some very senior positions from SS2 and the lowest level would be someone at level 5/6, Mr. Chairman. Those would account for the \$1million, I assume.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, again it is not clear in the establishment register, but emolument item 0156-1010 on civil services salaries, there is a big deduction of \$1.4million from the 2008 allocation. Next year 2009 it is only \$663,697 for the judicial section of that Ministry. Can the Minister explain the reasons for the reduction?

Hon. Kaua: Mr Chairman, they moved from one centre to another, and so their costs are different.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr. Chairman, a number of very important items like electricity, gas and water on that page have zero allocations. But those are very important support expenditures. Can the Minister confirm are those catered for, for the judicial division?

Hon. Wale: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister alluded to earlier, everything as you would see used to be under the 2007/8, revised 2008 under judicial and then this year they were reallocated because new divisions were created, which you would see the comparative figures are zero. For those that are zero you will see that the other charges are listed for 2009, and you would not see the comparatives whereas you will see the comparatives under judicial. That is the way those estimates are structured. I hope that clarifies it a little bit.

Hon. Sogavare: So we take it that the only expenses that are relevant now to judicial are office expense, printing and those others listed down there, and all the others are relevant to other divisions or units and are taken up in those units and divisions.

Hon Kaua: Yes, that is true.

Hon. Sogavare: Can the Minister explain a bit the reorganization in here? Where are these moved from, those Magistrates because they are zero rated in 2008 and they appear in 2009 so that we all know that this section also existed in 2008?

Hon. Kaua: In 2008 they all come under one budget. But they are separated in the 2009 budget and that is why you see it that way.

Mr Chairman: The same arrangement applies here.

Mr Soalaoi: Mr Chairman, if you look at the Provincial Magistrates their income is zero in all the provinces. For information, can the Minister inform the Committee are there any payments or income derive from provincial magistrates in all the provinces on fees or how is it collected?

Hon. Kaua: They all come under one head.

Head 296 - \$13,810,296 agreed to

Head 297 – Ministry of Women, Youth and Children’s Affairs

Hon. Sogavare: Page 573, emolument item 0001-1010, can the Minister explain the reason for the reduction there?

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, I have just noticed as well that from headquarters you will notice in the relevant divisions substantial increases on civil service salaries in Youth Development, Women’s Development, Children’s Development and there is a new section on Research Policy Planning and Information Division, and so I think those staffs are moved to relevant divisions within the Ministry and not lumped up as civil services salaries under headquarters salaries item.

Mr Soalaoi: Page 575, on maintenance of the CYP. I guess that is the Commonwealth Youth Program Centre for \$1million allocation in 2009. I just want to ask the Minister, who is responsible for maintaining that Centre? I thought it is a Commonwealth Youth Program centre, but are we bearing the cost of maintenance?

Mr. Tom: The Solomon Islands Government.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Chairman, since the CNURA Government came in, it pledged to further support the CYP. Mr Chairman, as the host country it is incumbent upon us to give a little bit more than is required to ensure that we keep this regional organization in Solomon Islands. That is the commitment the CNURA is making to the CYP since it came into office. Thank you very much.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just for the information of the House, we want to know item 0305-2124 - Youth Memorable Events, what is this?

Hon. Tom: This allocation is to celebrate the International Women's Day in Honiara and the provinces as well as 16 days of activism on violence against women.

Hon. Soalaoi: Mr Chairman, still on page 575 on grants. If you look underneath that you have provincial youth assistance grants, youth and children development grant and then above that you have grants. Mr Chairman, can the Minister inform the Committee, who is receiving those grants? The other two is alright because they are specific but grants on item 0305-4061, is what I want to know. Who is receiving that grant?

Hon. Tom: This allocation is to provide assistance and support to organized youth groups and youths including faith- based organizations.

Hon. Soalaoi: Page 580. Mr Chairman, on survey and research, it is of interest to me and I would like to know, and I guess so do other members of the Committee. What kind of survey is this?

Hon. Tom: The allocation is to meet cost of survey and research into identified areas of the three sectors; the divisions of women, youth and children. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, just for us lay people to understand what are some of the items here. The last item called photogrametary expenses. Can the Minister explain to us what that item is for?

Hon. Tom: This allocation is to meet the cost of safe storage, processing and editing of photos, science captured for information reports evidence of proof, research and awareness. It is mainly to support research and work.

Head 297 - \$8,466,007 agreed to

Head 298 - Ministry of Rural Development

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister brief Parliament on the reason for the increase in civil service salaries by \$441,000.

Hon. Fono: Thank you Leader of Opposition. I think the Leader should know very well that last year this was under budgeted for this year's budget and so we have now put in the right figures for actual staff the Ministry has and that is why there is an increase to the salaries.

Hon. Sogavare: Page 590, item 0491-2071 - Tours and Travel with an allocation of \$1.2million. What is the program and plan of action for implementation of that allocation?

Hon. Fono: For the information of Parliament, the program of the Ministry is to actually tour and monitor projects implemented under rural livelihood projects. You must implement the projects because out staff including the CDOs will be touring to monitor and evaluate the implementation those projects funded under the Rural Livelihood Program. .

Hon. Soalaoi: Mr Chairman, page 589, can the Minister confirm that items on that whole page would seem to me the page of commerce. Is business and cooperative under the Ministry of Rural Development?

Hon. Fono: Yes, at the moment it is still under the Ministry of Rural Development until office space is completed before it is moved. Cabinet has already made a decision to transfer back business and cooperatives to the Ministry of Commerce so that the Ministry only focuses on rural development. Thank you.

Head 298 - \$12,953,075 agreed to

Head 299 – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology

Hon. Sogavare: A standing question to Ministers. Overseas travel 0001-2091 for MPs and 2092 for public servants. How many trips will the Minister take in 2009?

Hon. Lilo: In fact, next year is going to be a very interesting year for the Ministry of Environment and Conservation. There are three trips expected of the Ministry to attend next year. The best one relates to the signing of the Coral Triangle Agreement with six nations in Bali next year. The third one is towards the end of the year for the signing of the Copenhagen Treaty, a treaty to supersede the Kyoto Protocol. Those are the trips for next year. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Waipora: Mr Chairman, it is not a question but I think the government has been very unfair to the Honorable Minister of this Ministry. I am again talking about house rent because this \$799,992 is for the hotel and that is why it is expensive. This is not only the CNURA but previous governments as well. I feel sorry for him because he is living in the hotel until today. The backbenchers are enjoying Ministers' houses but he is not, and that is why this amount is high.

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, I do not know whether the Deputy Leader of Opposition is really sad but he is misinforming the House. The staying of the Minister in the hotel is under the Parliamentary Entitlements. The house rent is for the staffs, and it would be very shameful for the Deputy Leader of Opposition to misinform the house. Now, you are getting it right because I am telling you what this allocation is for. The house rent here is for the staff, very qualified staff who are doing a very good job but because of the new Ministry we could find accommodation for them and so we have to provide house rental for them, appropriate housing to fit their standard at the market this time, and so there is no need for you to feel sad as it is for a different thing altogether. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, item 0512-4005 – training - Pre-service. This is pre-service and so where are they going for training. Should that come under Ministry of Education or NTU? Why is it under here?

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, the allocation is very small but we do organize pre-service training for our staff within the Ministry to update and upgrade their

skills in relation to their work of metrological services. The expense here is basically to meet training materials and things like that. It is not really an expensive exercise, but very worthwhile training just to continue to update our staff on new techniques and skills in the meteorological services. Thank you.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Chairman, can the Minister explain two expenditure items of 0516-3507 and 3508 - Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment and Climate Change Mitigation Assessment with allocations of \$200,000 and \$80,000 respectively for 2009.

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, as you know we have just published and is now being noticed for Parliament the National Adaptation Action Plan. That adaptation plan basically identifies areas within the country that needs addressing in order to adapt the effects of climate change. The provision here is to continue to update the data and information on critical adaptation areas that we need to address

As a matter of fact, Mr Chairman, in the next two days that particular report will be formally submitted to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention secretariat in Bosnan. Our high level delegation is there to formally present it to the secretariat. And as we present those report there is a need for us to continue to update ourselves on areas like the sinking islands of Malaita and Temotu that we need to continue to update to what extent are these islands sinking down so that the information can be put across to them that we have a pressing issue on climate change.

Climate Change Mitigation Assessment are areas in which we can help to prevent the emission of carbon in the atmosphere so that the effects of climate in our environment is reduced. For instance, we need to assess whether or not a good part of our population will continue to rely on fossil fuel energy or should we go to some other renewable energies. Or what are the areas that we can do in regards to agriculture and farming that is putting pressure on the environment. Or are there appropriate technologies or skills we can employ to mitigate the emission of carbon going to the atmosphere therefore creating the problem of climate change and things like that.

Hon. Sogavare: Thank you Mr Chairman for that explanation. The next one is 0516-6066. Maybe for the benefit of the House, can the Minister also brief us what that clean development mechanism is for.

Hon. Lilo: Mr Chairman, under the Kyoto Protocol all countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol are required to establish what is called a clean

development mechanism designated national authority in order for us to qualify for funding in terms of mitigation. But clean development mechanisms are options that we can adopt to minimize the emission of carbon and other greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. It is a requirement that we have to establish this mechanism.

The whole idea of this provision is that next year we should formally establish the designated national authority clean development mechanism. That is where we can identify or we have identified already under the national adaptation plan of action, we know the authority that will deal with it that can assess, verify and we can put forward to the appropriate international body for funding.

As you know, Mr Chairman, our total budget for adaptation and mitigation in this country is round about \$17million and that has been submitted. It will be submitted in the next United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention secretariat formally. That is why the document is in front of you here and I do hope all of you read that document so that we understand what is inside.

Head 299 - \$13,684,282 agreed to

Parliament resumes

Mr Speaker: Hon Members, in accordance with the earlier resolution of the House and pursuant to Standing Order 10(5) Parliament is now adjourned until 9.30am tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 5.36 pm