

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2015

The Speaker, Hon. Ajilon Nasiu took the Chair at 10.00am.

Prayers.

ATTENDANCE

All were present with the exception of the Member for Fataleka; Malaita Outer Islands; Savo Russells. And the: Prime Minister; Environment, Meteorology and Disaster Management; Mines and Energy; National Planning and Aid Coordination; Rural Development and Aid Coordination; Women, youth and Children Affairs.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

- 'Public Service Commission Annual Report 2013', (*National Parliament Paper No.9 of 2015*); by the Minister of Public Service.
- 'Ministry of Forest and Research Annual Report 2014', (*National Parliament Paper No.10 of 2015*); by the Minister of Forest and Research.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Certification for Increase of Parliamentary Entitlements

6. **Mr DERRICK MANU'ARI** (*West Makira*) to the Minister for Finance & Treasury: Can the Minister inform Parliament about the certification of the increases in parliamentary entitlements, in particular the revised pension scheme which now includes one term parliamentarians? With your indulgence I have spoken to the Minister of Finance and he has requested if the question can be withdrawn on the basis that he is going to provide an extensive response to this question in his Sine Die contribution.

I understand the concern he has in regards to the time limitation we have and therefore I agree and concur with the request by the Minister that it is appropriate that the

matter be extensively covered during his Sine Die contribution. I hope and believe that he include all aspects of the concern at hand which includes not only the life pension scheme but also the tax exemption aspect of the parliamentary entitlement increase. I seek that the answer to this question be delivered during his Sine Die contribution.

Hon SNYDER RINI (*Minister for Finance and Treasury*): I would like to thank Member of Parliament for West Makira that I will give detailed answer to his question in my Sine Die contribution when I present my speech on the Motion of Sine Die. I would like to thank him for that. I can assure the House that I will try and explain the whole issue when I deliver my speech.

Mr Derrick Manuari: I thank the Minister in advance for allowing time to answer the question in his contribution to the Sine Die debate. I just want to clarify here that the question is not technically withdrawn. It stands to be answered during the Sine Die contribution by the Minister. I thank him for his understanding.

Question No. 7 deferred

MOTIONS

Motion No.6

Motion of Sine Die

Mr MATTHEW WALE (*Aoke/Langalanga*): I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker, the Clerk, the Honourable Deputy Speaker and the officials who have been providing a very capable and good services to ensure Parliament continues to discharge its constitutional mandate and functions, both on the floor of Parliament and also outside of the chambers through committees. The very impressive support that is now being rendered by library for research is laudable.

I would also like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister, the mover of the motion and the way he has sort to provide a little structure to guide the debate on this very important motion. It is very important for the reasons outlined by the Prime Minister in terms of an opportunity for the Prime Minister to seek views, opinions and perhaps put out feelers in terms the things the government sees important policy priorities or perhaps engage the attitude of the parliament on those issues. He raised the need for Sine Die motions which are traditionally free for all kinds of motion. He raised this idea that Sine Die Motion be structured so that we get much better use of Parliament's time. So that we are addressing issues we are able get clear intentions of some of the issues to help him and also the government too. To know where the parliament stands or where consensus is on the various issues. And as it is obvious that a lot of the policy issues, there is no difference in both side of the house, we all want what is good for our country.

Politics has steered a way from the traditional politics of other jurisdiction which ideologically based. So you have in the case of Australia the Labour party which is more left leaning and the liberal party or the National party, which are more conservative leaning and that kind of ideology also dictates the kind of economic approaches on the policy which they pursue; the kind of social policy which they pursue. The conservatives wanted a smaller government, the more left leaning. We do not have those ideological bases, so in some ways it is not good. Because it means that we do not have a base set of values to guide our politics and to guide the way we approach our policy and to give certainty to policy formulation. But in many other ways it is good, it means we do not have much difference; we all are looking for good ideas and the best for the country.

The thing which divides us comes down to personality, personally politics and other interests. Like the Prime Minister has mentioned, we must raise our sights beyond that, and to see that if we do not have differences in Policy, we ought to be working much closer together in finding common purpose, because we do have common interest in serving our people and making sure Government work for our people.

Having said that, it is also important in terms of the tradition of Sine Die Motion that MPs are free to canvass outside and beyond what the Prime Minister as mover of the motion has outlined, this is because MPs may see other areas as important equally or more

important than those policy areas raised in the motion. So I think a balance of the two is useful to allow healthy debate on the floor.

Referring back to the speech from the throne from his Excellence and then come to the budget which is the two key outlines of Government policy, I think it is not a criticism but it is more refrain to help us to pause every now and again and to reflect on what we are trying to do, the refrain is in seeing the government policy in reflecting on the speech from the throne and on the budget and the deliberations in committee and so fore. The refrain is, are we trying too much? This is not a criticism, it is a refrain that is useful for us to keep asking ourselves at every juncture of policy making to see, is there room left to be more focused and strategic? So we tighten the nut and tighten the screw and so, we get a much, much clearer focus and much more targeted policy and certainly when it results in choices to spend.

Our Parliamentary Democracy based on the principle of Government by consent. If we look at history we know that the Roman Republic which was founded as a City state, of course it become a super power for a thousand years. And it ends up with a series of dictators. However, when the Roman Republic was founded, it was done on the principle of the government by consent. And if you heard the stories about the Roman senate which is much like our parliament. Of course the electoral system is contextual to those days but the principle is very clear that it is government by consent. Sir the consent is granted in a plebiscite or in elections and is monitored on the people's behalf by their elected representatives in parliament. So it is much like what we have today, we have not gone too far from that principle. So people elect once every four years and then during the term of those four years, the people through their members in parliament continue to monitor and seek accountability for the consent which people grant during the elections.

This is why accountability to parliament must be taken very seriously by all of us, sir questions that oath to be asked must be asked in parliament. And truthful and full answers must be given in Parliament. It is the exercise of accountability for the people's consent; that's what parliament did. It sounds basic and it is basic but it is foundational; it is fundamental.

All of us even Ministers we are all members of parliament first before we are ministers or chairman to this committee or that committee but we are all members of

parliament first. Our primary responsibility therefore is to parliamentary accountability before anything else. We must hold dear and hold high our responsibility as members of parliament. I have been impressed with the way that ministers have performed, especially during the debate and committee of the budget. Of course there is room for more improvement but it has been encouraging as a start especially for new members who are Ministers. And how they handle their Ministries and try and to be on top of what is happening in the ministries. It is important that Ministers show maturity and responsibility and competence. That they take the trouble to read briefs and seek answers from their officials. Which means ministers, must spend a lot of time in their offices including over time. Providing political leadership and getting to know what is and should be happening in their port folios. Also the coordinating role of ministers played by the Prime Minister; I think right at the outset, the Prime Minister's coordination must be to improve the capacity and performance of ministers in an embracing way and not in a way of pointing fingers or make anyone feel incompetent. But rather in an empowering way, so that ministers are able to provide the leadership that our people expect, and we must give our people no less. We must also be willing to learn, it does not think that when we are at the peak of leadership at the national level that we have nothing more to learn. I think we must clothe ourselves with humility and accept that we too need to be in seminars and workshops, we too need to be challenged. We too need to be taught so that we can acquire some skills in leadership. But also, just the rudimentary basics of all the laws that each Ministry administers; what powers are there; what are the boundaries between the Minister and the administrative level-by the Permanent Secretary (PS) and the role that cabinet have and even the role of the Prime Minister. By doing so, the whole machinery of government can work properly.

Traditionally we always think that the Permanent Secretary are the pivot but I think the Ministers are the pivot, on which this interface between the political Executive government and the administrative government (the bureaucracy, the civil service) meets. Therefore if you have the Minister that is very effective it will clearly show. The civil service under that minister will also perform and will also deliver. So it is important that the Prime Minister's Coordination role looks serious on this, that in the emphasis and the focus on the strategic policy areas that the Prime Minister's office also focuses on, it should not ignore these aspects because this is where the rubber meets the road.

The Prime Minister also touched on some aspects of us working together and getting the government to work. When he mentioned that it led me to ask a question ;and I think it is a question that we all need to reflect on. The question is, what sort of things can lead to compromised government? The answer is clear, and we have asked questions about that in here. And people have complained about it. The things that lead to ineffective government are the things that compromise government and our decision making. Especially things like; personal agendas, personal interests, business interests, contracts or even business friends or enemies and constituency issues. Those things can lead the government to be ineffective or weak to enforce what is in their policy.

The discussions in Committee on the Fisheries Management Bill 2015 on the matter of conflict of interest, I think it is the first time to appear in a piece of legislation and it must be the first of all future legislations that are yet to come. Perhaps when the ICAC legislation comes in, I think it is good for the ICAC legislation to contain an enabling provision for the conflict of interest legislation to be inserted in all other legislations. And very importantly, it must apply in cabinet because the executive decision making is in cabinet. Once the cabinet make the decision and comes to Parliament, the game of numbers will make sure that legislation goes through. If a conflict of interest issue is not sorted out at the cabinet level, by the time it plays out in Parliament, it will make us look awkward. So we need to clean it up in cabinet, where the first key decision is made, so that when it comes to the floor of House it flows clearly.

I am not talking about this to imply there are already conflicts of interest – I am not aware or privy to any such, but in principle I am saying, this would be best practice that we ought to take on or adopt to help governance and the way we make decisions.

In relation to conflict of interests, for instance in Cabinet, when the agendas are circulated to Ministers, a Minister who realises that you have a conflict of interest on one particular agenda or a potential conflict of interest for that matter, you should go out of your way. You should take the initiative and declare such a conflict of interest and subsequently recuse yourself from that particular Cabinet meeting. And so there is a need on that for a register to be created perhaps at the Cabinet office under the Prime Minister’s guidance for Ministers to exercise this function. Once we start to do this it will increase, enhance and improve the trust of our people in the decision making in Government. And it would also

make the Prime Minister's coordinating role far less stressful. If we do not have such a system of declaration of conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest by a particular member of cabinet. And the Prime Minister is not aware beforehand, you are going to make the Prime Minister stress over what position that person is going to take. Prime Ministers—whatever else we might have to say about them, against them or for them—they want to see or they want to live a legacy, or we hope they want to live a legacy to this nation; a legacy of good government, responsible government, government for everybody, government in the national interests. And so when a potential or a conflict of interest exists but there is no system to deal with it, it can cause unnecessary stress. Because as we know, all these things in our context affect the numbers situation. And the numbers situation is most acute when decisions are made where the Prime Minister must personally supervise or preside over.

And so I labored on this point because I think it is really important and it ought to be practiced in our Executive Forums where decisions are made for the national interest. This is an area that the government must closely watch and the DCC Government has raised expectations very, very high not only in policy—and these are good things and we like them—but also in the governance and in the delivery, and so it is important that the government closely watch these important matters. We know that in years gone by governments have lost trusts of the people and so this is an important way to regain and continue to sustain and maintain the people's trust in government.

Sir, government decisions, choices and actions must not be painted in any way with personal and of business interests and I am sure Sir, that the Prime Minister will do his best in this regard. But I want to encourage ministers Mr Speaker, to make the Prime Minister's job easier—it is never easy, but if it is 5 or 10percent easier it would be wonderful by seeking to do the same. In our context I do not know how to access Facebook, but those of you who can access Facebook, I heard that there are all sorts of comments to spoil us. Our context is always like that in terms of hearsay and rumour-mongering and all kinds of stories. Perhaps a lot of it is fabricated. The element of truth is perhaps less than 10percent, but they have exaggerated it further. Our context is like this; if you go to the market, the stories at the market will be more extreme, but the truth is probably far from it.

So there will be situations that it is clear-cut, decision should be made straight forward, but there is this perceived conflict of interest or perceived potential conflict of interest, we have lost the trust of people totally unnecessary. So having a system there will protect everybody.

The other aspect of executive government which I think is very important is that government must be effective and decisive. We do not have much time, we only have four years. We might think that four years is very long, but we know it is not. It is not long especially in reforming, refocusing and transitioning an economy that we want to do like the Prime Minister outlined yesterday. Four years is not long. For that kind of thing, a mid-term is 10years. Of course we cannot ask the people for a 10year mandate. It is in our, human weakness part of us, that perhaps 10years is too long. But we have no time to lose. The government must be decisive at all turns. So that we know that the government is effective in enforcing its will and in the implementation of its policy choices and intentions.

And it is important the effectiveness must be built from within. By 'within' I mean politically; within government itself, within Caucus and Cabinet. It is important that there is consensus built at every turn and that consensus must not be at the least common denominator. Government by least common denominator will always lead us to the lowest standard, expectations, delivery and compromise. So it is important that the consensus of that decisiveness is built from within. Again obviously the leadership for that must be played by the Prime Minister, but on building this consensus does not belong to the Prime Minister himself. It belongs to party leaders and everybody.

Sir, if the things that the Prime Minister outlined yesterday are as important as he said they are, and we all agree that those are important for the country. We all must go out of our way, especially ministers in Cabinet. We all must go out of our way and take the initiative to go out of our way to make sure that at every turn, we find the consensus to make the right choices and be effective in carrying them through. Because carrying them through comes down to the ministries. If not, we may get the usual situation where we get emotionally hyped up because we are by instinct, emotional beings. And we get very happy; perhaps hyper happy about proposals or ideas, and few weeks or months later, it dies down again, before we know it at the end of four years, one word will describe our legacy, and that would be 'disappointment'-tragedy. Disappointment that we had opportunities to do good for our people and for our lovely country, but we did not do all the good that we could

have done. We are capable of doing all or perhaps most of it but we did little of it and that would be the disappointment.

This is why it is the responsibility of all members who are in the Government Caucus and especially in Cabinet to make the Prime Minister's work that much easier, joyful and not a burden in being decisive. Off course, it calls for mutual respect and understanding and these are lessons the Prime Minister said publicly that he has learned from his two previous terms as Prime Minister in managing Government and cabinet.

Sir, the motions of no confidence which the Prime Minister has alluded to; there have been no shortage of those going back some 30 years since independence. I agree with the Prime Minister that perhaps most of those motions of no confidence have been on political interest or business interests or some other interest other than national interest. So, it is important that we learn from those experiences. I am glad to hear the Prime Minister has included himself in the summons that we endeavour to avoid repeating the mistakes that have led in the past to no confidence motions. None of us is perfect but let us all help each other with mutual understanding and mutual respect. When frivolous motions of no confidence are entertained the real victims are the lovely people of these beautiful islands. But what can we do about it? Are there some things we can do about them? Let us seek out the things we can do and get them done. It is not good to diagnose this problem and then we leave it because it is the cancer that eats in the bone of our governance. There is of course two sides to this question. Motions of no confidence are also a safety trigger that in the national interest if a Prime Minister and/or a government is not serving the national interest. Or in some issues overstep their mandate, motions of no confidence offer a circuit breaker. So there is the need to recognise that. But overall in our history we could see that the vast majority of cases, interests other than national interest normally invoke seeing motions of no confidence on the floor of this House. We do need to regulate the manner in which the right of a Member of Parliament under Section 34 of the Constitution may be used.

Sir, the constitutional amendments and party integrity bill which comes in 2010 contain such boundaries setting disciplines which I would encourage the Prime Minister and government to revisit. We want an effective Executive Government because it is in everybody's interest. But at the same time we want very effective and strong opposition to keep a stronger and effective government in check and in balance and exercise

parliamentary accountability. The Westminster model is clear in the way we have adopted it in our country. Real accountability on the floor of parliament is exercised by those who are not in government. That is a very important role. We are all human and have the propensity for injustice and things that are not so good. It is in our own best interest and in the interest of the whole that accountability is taken seriously and that the Opposition side of the house is strengthened. I have been saying this even during the previous government when I was with the Opposition. I think that this government is made up mostly of those who have been in the last opposition, who have been signing this tune to now to now come good on it. As the Prime Minister said that when you are in Opposition, you tend to preach about good governance and when you are in government, the Opposition will do the same and we presume to either know it or we do not really need to follow our own advice.

I think we have a splendid opportunity to make sure the Opposition is strong and resist the temptation to jump to government and those in government to pull those in opposition to the government side. The national interest needs a strong opposition. Do not weaken it because you are making parliament ineffective, you are undermining accountability on the floor of the house. It is important that we hold these principles. This is why I encourage the Prime Minister to revisit the 2010 proposals because they coupled the Political Party Integrity Bill with constitutional amendments to really deal with these issues. The Political Party Integrity Act, which is now in operation, is a very small part of the proposals that came in 2010. The 2010 proposals deal both with having strong executive government and having effective opposition.

Those proposals are also proposed to remove the office of the Leader of Independent, which I think we all agree. It is an antic of a distance past that we can do away with, and dealing with Shadow Ministers who are properly remunerate and properly staffed and have offices to do the work that they must do. On the other hand, having perhaps in the ICAC legislation or Freedom of Information legislation or in some legislation, have an open government so that choices or decision that are being taken by government can be second guessed by the Opposition and the Opposition is unable to second guess to see whether you have made the best choice. Of all the choices that are there, have they had all the options? Have you gone to the lowest common denominator? Or have you gone to what are best outcomes and decisions for the whole people? Opposition will not be able to ask questions

to gauge that if they do not have access to the same information that ministers have that is the basis for decision making. I think this will lead us to much better governance and we will become of, by and for the people because then the people can gauge through parliament that decisions that are reached are the absolute best of the all the various options that are before government.

The Prime Minister touched on the fact that he is in a club of very few and he said there are high expectations for a third time Prime Minister and I totally agree with it. Given his experience and all that he has said when he was in the opposition; he served a full 6years in the Opposition. And being in the Opposition is a wonderful blessing; because the things you can say when in the opposition you cannot say when you are in the government, you are free to pull the moon down to the earth and explore other galaxies. It's a healthy process if you apply your mind to it; it will help to narrow the focus on the most strategic and the most important things. So after 6years being in the opposition the Prime Minister is right to say that the experiences have helped to mould his vision and focus to what are the most important things that ought to happen. Therefore, as a third time Prime Minister, that people expects a lot, we too have high expectations and I am glad to hear the Prime Minister has recognised these.

I want to encourage the Prime Minister to be decisive yet consultative, a required balance. To be too consultative that will become the excuse or the bases for not being decisive will hold the rest of the country back. It may be necessary politically to keep the numbers but it will hold the country back. To be decisive and not enough consultation then we will get all the accusations of being dictatorial or autocratic. But sometimes we must accept that there is a need for leadership and leadership is decisive and that decisiveness must not be taken for being dictatorial or being autocratic. There is always place and time to be decisive and exercise at the leadership level and at the Prime Minister's level but all of that has to balance. So I would like to encourage the Prime Minister to keep reflecting on it and perhaps to surround himself at the personal level with some good people; I am not talking about political cronies or political supporters, I am talking about some people of faith who will help to maintain the Prime Minister's disposition and focus on the most important things to maintain these kind of balance. We all at the personal level need pastoral care and pastoral support, that kind of care and support that helps us individuals

then before it help us as leaders in our various offices and official positions to be effective in the things that must be done.

I recognise that Parliamentary Democracy as we have is based on reaching acceptable compromises, as I have said we must avoid the tyranny of consensus by the least common denominator. We need leadership, let us give space and time for leadership so we can see the dividends from it. On that I would also want to encourage the DCC members in Caucus and in the cabinet to consider policy implementation, to have more weight and avoid personality as the basis for loyalties. Government is by majority and so numbers are important, but the history is very clear that Prime Ministers have been held ransom to the numbers game and this has resulted in retarded growth and development of our country going back these years since independence. As I said, we want effective government, decisive government which is why we must strengthen opposition so that accountability on the floor of this House and even outside it can be guaranteed and can be assured.

The other thought that occurred to me when the Prime Minister was moving this motion and again it recur to me when the Prime Minister was speaking yesterday on the trade policy framework, and also during the Speech from the Throne, I think there are lots of good things being said. And I agree strategy wise about a lot of the good things he has been saying. But I am a bit worried in my stomach that he will as the leader of the government; as the leader of the country; a political leader, that he will be overwhelmed by the routine, the mundane, the everyday appointments and so forth and the strategic and the important will be crowded out and we move more and more to a routine, to a crisis management sort of situation. And so I want to suggest that the Prime Minister appoints someone whose single role is to take down every single thing the Prime Minister says, especially the policy ideas and pronouncements that he makes whether or not it is in the DCC policy. Once a public statement is made by the Prime Minister as leader of government, it ought to be recorded and followed through. If it is not in, take it through caucus, take it through cabinet, if it is out inform the people that it is not agreed to and if it is in then inform the people that it is in, follow it through into the budget and follow right through. In that way, it contributes to building the trust of our people in the government nor does it undermine the Office of the Prime Minister. I think it is important for the office because the Prime Ministers are saying a lot of good things, they are privy to a lot more information than the

rest of us, they meet with a lot of interesting people who come with interesting proposals and so they will make public statements coming out of that. But if it is not noted and the meetings are over and he gets swamped or overwhelmed with the mundane and the routine, most of the good ideas can fall through the hoops and so it is important that someone is singly responsible to record and to follow through. There is a process to follow through on this.

On the budget, I registered my disappointment regarding the funding issues on medical equipments, in particular. But I was encouraged by the Finance Minister's response that he will consider it favorably when the equipment committee submits. So the Minister for Health, it was when you were away that Finance Minister said this, so get your equipment committee to meet this week and submit it back next week to the Minister of Finance. He even floated that if he cannot vire for it then he would go to cabinet for CW to finance the equipment requirements of our hospitals.

When I visit Auki in the very near future, I will be meeting with the Kilu'ufi hospital equipment committee to discuss their needs. I have the assurance of the Honourable Minister for Finance & Treasury to also give him the needs so that the two ministers can look into them.

Also on the budget, the other sector that I also expressed a bit of disappointment was in the agriculture sector. That is because of the fact that it was only 30percent of their bids was accepted. Even at the Committee of the Whole House, it was still unclear to me what will be done about it. Nevertheless, I am happy the Minister has announced that the agriculture research will be stationed in Auki and this is very important.

While on agriculture, we always say that Agriculture is the backbone of our economy but it is not reflected as the backbone of the budget. If agriculture truly is the backbone of our economy it should be shown as well in the budget. Moreover, when we discuss about the trade policy framework, the Prime Minister made this clearly we are in competition and that goes to agriculture as well. There are now genetically modified food and grains. There is now hybrid plant species of the various sorts. So we need research to place us, regarding the products that we have comparative advantage at the leading edge. And this calls for research, and this research should not be low leveled research. We are talking about attracting some of the best Scientist into our Research facility. We want the best outcomes, so

we pay the best money, we get the best talent. We have the money and it is in the budget. and agriculture will pay for itself. I am happy that the Agriculture Research facility will be revived and extended. This will lead to collaboration with Scientific institutions in other parts of the world to help us to fight disease but also to find new technology and new breeds to make our Agriculture feed more people. About 60 years ago, when scientists invent the hybrid species but when that grow it can feed twelve times as many people as the original see that you can. At that time, there was an outcry from the third world, saying we need seeds to plant. But over time it became clear that with an increased global population beginning from the time the seed was invented, from 5 billion to 7 billion today. You can see that the smart option or the appropriate option was to feed everybody. And so it is an issue that will affect our food security; with an increased population that has an increased pressure on our resources and agriculture and land resources and food; it is important that research can help us to achieve that.

As I said, the way to see increase the foreign direct investments, broaden the economic base, create sustainable jobs and in term increased Government revenue in the long run and fund public expenditure from sustainable base that is what the Prime Minister have said yesterday in his debate on Trade Policy Framework.

And so I would like to encourage the government the gist of the Prime Minister's debate yesterday, must be featured in the budget of 2016 and carry through. If we do not feature it strongly enough, perhaps for very right reasons too; maybe land is held up or whatever the issues then to that extend too, we will see whether we are moving as efficiently as possible towards achieving the good things that we would like to see our country to achieved.

I am very encouraged also by the Honourable Prime Minister's disposition and openness to taking ideas or good ideas from Parliamentary debate to see if it can be taken up in government policy. This one I think it's a positive step that must be encouraged. Government of, government by and government for the people must embrace everybody, it must include everybody that is why it is important, that the Prime Minister's disposition towards embracing ideas and opinions from all angles including even those who might criticize, including those who might criticized him with wrong motives the government. There is no shortage of those as well as we know. That we take the attitude, that our critics

are partly right even if they are not wholly right, they may be partly right and we may learn a thing or two from what they have said.

As I touched on earlier Mr Speaker, based on mutual respect and mutual understanding, the Prime Minister's role as coordinator of cabinet is perhaps the critical success factor of government. If ministers go their own way, do their own thing and Prime Minister is not roping them in or not refocusing them on what is the road to walk along then interest of the people and national interests will suffer. So it is important that we all support this coordination role.

On the matter of political appointees, it is clear the position or what the Prime Minister have said, is a clear cut. It is important in the coordination role and in the leadership role that the Prime Minister is supported by the very best we have available, but that one I think is a weakness. We have some of the very best and we have some of the very worst political appointees. I have seen a lineup of pictures which they give to PAC and I've look through and start counting the people. They also applied and they also have qualification such as Masters and so on. But they applying for various jobs but none of these institutions employ them. There is such a thing where you have the qualification but you do not perform - highly educated but incompetent individuals. And I think there are a few of them and that is what I think the public gets animated about, that we do have an opportunity to do good and to deliver but we not drag the Prime Minister down by casting dead weight, dead burden on him. This is not the Prime Minister's issue; this issue belongs to the political parties that form the Coalition. Because they are supporters or executive members of those political parties must get the jobs. This is not an employment agency. The Office of the Prime Minister must deliver and provide leadership at the absolutely best we can. If we start by lagging him with heavy luggage and dead weight—and I hope those people are listening. They know who they are and that they should recuse themselves, they should resign and they should offer themselves not be in the Prime Minister's Office. It is really on that point that I want to raise. It is the sincerity of the parties who are in coalition to nominate good people. Getting the right people for the job is what is important.

The number 30 or 40 is not enough. The Prime Minister needs a hundred. That is true, proverbial 100, but the Prime Minister need much, much more. We talk about these good things. Do you think it will happen in thin air? No, those things need men and women

will follow through – it is human beings who will follow through. But we get the best of the talent that is available and we pay them well to get the job done. It is not only this government that has this problem; it is a problem from the past. And if we look at the performance and the delivery of the government, we will see the extent to which this dead weight lay on their Prime Ministers and on their Governments. I think we should not repeat this and expect a different outcome. We see the outcomes in previous attempts at governing. This is an important matter and we should not repeat that mistake. We have an opportunity to do better. I know the Prime Minister said that they are all on one year performance contracts, and they if do not perform, they will be removed. But even before they are appointed, we know that they will not perform – then that is an issue. But I will rest that there.

On the civil service, and I have said this before, it is important that the civil service deliver on government policies. The civil service is not and must not be its own master, running its own agenda or the agenda of a few. Public Service reform must be to achieve greater responsiveness to executive government policy intentions. And the public service or civil service must have a user friendly disposition toward the people. Yes, we are trying to tighten some areas such as lands, but we should not tighten those areas to an extent that it excludes our people or it becomes unresponsive to the government or it becomes insensitive to those who use services offered by the various Ministries.

The positive outlook presented in the 2015 budget as outlined by the Prime Minister is a wonderful opportunity. It is a wonderful opportunity for government's fiscal policy to be very bold, but it must also be very strategic. The availability of cash reserves presents a unique opportunity and must firstly gravitate towards the most strategic investments before trickling to other less strategic areas. I have said this on a number of times, but I would like to repeat this in the House that public private partnerships offer perhaps the best and most strategic platform for development in strategic productive sectors in our economy. Therefore, some of the cash reserves should be reserved or allocated towards some of the platforms depending on how the government wants to proceed. The growth in these strategic productive areas will broaden again the economic base and then create the jobs which we want for our people.

Sir, I think it is important with the discussion yesterday about the trade policy framework to think around these issues as well. How do we realise the potential? How can we move aware potential and then it becomes reality in key sectors of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, energy, forestry, mining and so forth. Give the tragic try that we have come with our economy has been agriculture and extraction. That has predominated economic activity. But the time has come upon us which is well overdue but the 10th House have an opportunity to transition the economy away from that extractive base, so that we can achieve more of the sustainability objectives in job creation, revenue financing and in trade as well. I know from what the Prime Minister has stated yesterday that I am preaching to the converted. But the key opportunities and solutions must feature in some of the responses that we have in offering inducements, fiscal or otherwise and perhaps part of the public private platforms. So the announcement by the Prime Minister of legislation to establish special economic zones is most welcome and must be strategic. But I also think it must be progressive too, based on the socio economic fundamentals of our country and we also need to look on what we will address in the next 10 years and where are those most acute. Let us start there and then we progressively move to other locations.

Sir, the Prime Minister has mentioned taxes and I am glad his mentioning that because that is his former job and he is also part of the reform to bring in the Goods Service Tax (GST). Of course, nobody wants to pay tax and that is why we must legislate but we want everybody to comply and to pay the right amount of tax. We all carry our fair share of bearing the public burden on expenditure. But it is an expected impediment; on the level of taxes or the high rate of taxes that we currently have. What we have seen over recent history is; there is foreign direct investment coming in but they are not the quality as the Prime Minister has mentioned yesterday. They are not the type and quality that we want in the sectors that are strategic. The investments come in and they open shops, selling of beetle nut, running second hand clothing and run taxi services and it has other social consequences of crowding our people out of sectors that they are able to competently participate. We see that at that level and the quality of those investors, if you check their books, they pay very minimal taxes too. Perhaps some of them avoid taxes but pay very little by way of taxes. It is important that rationalization of our taxation regime to attract the kind of quality to be part of the cocktail of incentives and inducements, which is part of the Special Economic Zone

legislation to attract the right quality in the right sectors of our economy and the people who are more likely to pay their way and become part of sustaining the government through taxes.

With regards to the cost of living, I raised this during my budget debate and I would like to raise it again because it is very important. Cost of living in Honiara and urban centres become unbearable for many Solomon Islanders, including public servants in Honiara. There are public servants in the middle and lower ranks who cannot make it to the next fortnight. They have to owe money from the credit union or loan sharks with 20percent interest and it puts them into more debts. Cost of living is a serious issue for us. We are lucky that our people do not demonstrate on the streets but in other jurisdictions people march on the streets or burn down houses over such issues. Our people are very peace loving but we should not make an excuse for not being decisive about how we will address the cost of living. It is also part of the cocktail of issues in the consideration of those who want to invest and live here.

On inflation, this always troubles my mind. We always base our inflation calculation because Central Bank does it, on the Honiara price index. However when goods reach rural areas it doubles its price. I think there is a need for Central Bank to find some kind of a national inflation figure that truly informs us and especially the Ministry of Finance when it works on the budget, so that the allocations reflect more the cost of doing business and cost of living outside of Honiara and the more remote parts of our country.

The other issue is superannuation. NPF is compulsory by law and people can withdraw their NPF when they turn 50years or banks can take a third of the NPF for not paying loans. I think NPF must consider a superannuation scheme where people can receive a bit of it every fortnight or every week or every month. I think NPF needs to consider this in its reviews and if they do not want such thing, then we must liberalise it, so that the option is there for people in retirement so that the fund can earn interest and at the same time gives them regular stipend so that they can survive on.

In terms of NPF and I would encourage the minister of Finance to look into this. I had been looking at their most recent balance sheet, their cash reserve is increasing, but the money belongs to the member. The NPF continues to hold the reserve; there is a strong argument for every Government and businesses to have reserves. But when you are

building up reserves for no reason, it does not make any sense. But especially in the case of NPF which the money belongs to the members, it must be paid out. Their reserves are about \$400million which sits in the cash reserve and morally it does not belong to NPF it belongs to the members of the fund, and ought to be paid out. The board's duty is merely fiduciary; it mustn't see the money as belong to the fund to hoard and to invest in this or that. It is a good thing, but there are members who died and also retired and wanting to withdraw their money, and will have to forfeit that were earned when the money was in the fund. Some clearer guidelines ought to be set up around levels of cash reserves that NPF can hold on to.

Also in the budget speech I also raised some issues such as the Electricity prices which is very high, and only goes upward. And yet it is directly under the supervision of the government. Electricity is one of the main contributor to the cost of living, especially in Honiara and other urban centers which the SIEA is working in. I think the Minister responsible under the SOE Act must give clear directions so that the strategic objectives under the SOE Act so that SIEA will pull in line. We do not allow them to decide and then apply for tariff, but the government must set the clear direction and roped them in. If they said that this is the cost of doing business; I think it is important that the minister ask for an efficiency audit on the SIEA, so that the public is not subsidizing inefficiencies in the organisation. Under the theme that was raised by the member for Small Malaita, under the ease of doing business; I think that our laws within the Trade union and labour and for alternative dispute resolution; like trade dispute resolution. We need to look into that, so that commercial and trade disputes can be resolved more efficiently and at the same time they will not clog up our court system. The more of the disputes are settle outside of court through alternative dispute resolution mechanism. And our labour law and trade union law must protect the rights of the employees. But we have had situations in which the trade unions also wanted to dictate management of the companies and so forth. I think if we want to transition our economy to a processing, manufacturing and service economy, then we must look at the labour and trade union laws and that the right to manage must not be interfered with.

The best strategy for the economic empowerment of our people is through their tribes. And through land reform that recognizes tribal titles, rights and provides just governance around the benefits that approve from the exploitation of their land and the land

based resources. In this the government is right to put it as one of its top priority. Land is core to our communal existence and identity and must be handled very responsibly in a matured way but at the same time decisively.

It is true as was pointed out by the Prime Minister that government must tread carefully in inducing people away from the subsistence economy or existence. However this on the other hand must not be an excuse for government abdicating its responsibility to ensure that the transition is carefully managed. Globalization is upon us, and the subsistence existence will come under immense pressure, as it has in many other parts of the world. The government is talking about ways to see increased foreign investment in this country. This will lead to increase pressure on the subsistence economy. It is better to manage the transition than expected not to happened, it will happen whether or not government is involve. So it is better to be involved and have some influence over its transition. This perhaps is an area of social policy that government needs to consider and have some brain storming done. Ask our social scientist that are professors in the institutions around the world to share some idea as they observe what has happened in other countries around the world.

Sir, on the fisheries bill, I did not speak during the second reading, so I want to congratulate the government and the Honourable Minister, my dear brother the Member for West Are'Are for taking a substantial step forward in bringing the management of this very important sector in line with modern realities and challenges. However it is also clear that the bill is necessarily out of necessity, it focuses too much on off shore fisheries. That is may be prejudicial to our indigenous people doing inshore activities it assumes right through. I think the bill should have been split into two separate legislations, one dealing with the issues of practices of everyday livelihoods of our people. And then the other deals with the assumption of bigger operators and so forth, perhaps the government could revisit this matter and remedy it. With fisheries it is clear that the western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is a weakness, a glaring weakness in the scheme of management organizations involve in the tuna fishery. I think we should seek serious discussions with all FFA members to see if our region would be better off by withdrawing totally from that commission. And denying any of its rulings that interfere with our Regional investors, why should we continue to subject ourselves to distant water fishing nations who dominate the

western central Pacific Tuna Fishery commission. Since when have distant water fishing nations ever had our interests in their heart? It is supposed to be us who advance and protect our interests and these distant water fishing nations dominate this commission and turn to weaken our position, especially for those of us in the region. PNA was formed on the base or principal of a cartel, an economic cartel much like OPEC that deals with oil and in OPEC you do not see big consumers of oil sitting and making decisions of OPEC. They do not direct it rather they influence it through market economics while OPEC protects the decision making that affects oil. Hence, FFA and PNA need to consider this very seriously and try to make it become part of our diplomacy and foreign policy in order to push this agenda with our partners in the region.

The other aspect with fisheries that I am concern is with the international waters and is located between the FFA member's states and PNA member's state. We must find consensus, it oath to become part of our foreign policy and diplomacy to eliminate the international waters. This is to avoid the situation where foreign vessels caught fish in our territory and pretend that they caught the fish from the international waters. The Fisheries Management Bill that we just passed gives the jurisdiction for our courts to deal with issues that are committed or done beyond our fisheries waters or outside our 200 economic mile zone. But is it a heddle dealing with offenses done in the international waters and so the way to manage it or deal with it is to pursue a policy with our regional partners to totally eliminate any international water in the region. By doing that, it will have a direct and significant consequence on our economy and so we must make it to be part of our foreign policy.

The data for 2013 on our catch at the region has catered for 4.5million tonnes of tuna, most part of it comes from skipjack, yellow fin and other species, from that 4.5million tonnes we gain \$4.5billion (USD). Well, from this amount of money, how much do we gain from the PNA waters because the convention areas of western, central pacific commission also include Indonesia and Philippines? So how is the catch from PNA waters and how much is it from the Solomon Islands waters? During the PAC, the PS of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources talked about the increased revenue we get from Tuna and we were very happy. However, when you see \$4.5billion (USD) for one year, I just wonder **11.18** are we getting a fair return for this resource Mr Speaker and again this must dominating our

diplomacy and also our foreign policy Mr Speaker getting a fair return for our tuna fishery, tuna resources.

You know we are excited that revenue from this sector is approaching \$200million a year and it will keep on increasing each year. But it would seem in the phase of value to be a patent Mr Speaker it's very small. Even Sir, if we only contributed one percent of the catch volume Mr Speaker that would be US\$45million, SI\$360million bank in 2013 when we collected 120million Solomon dollars back then. So I think it's surely we contribute more than one percent of the volume of catch Mr Speaker and so it is important that we take it up fisheries must know, we must know the statistic I am sure it is there and it must inform government policy and foreign policy so that Minister of Foreign Affairs and Fisheries go round and lobby. If we're flexing our muscles and we reduce the catch volume and placing increase pressure for price to be increased and get a better return for our resource this can only be good for everybody. It is not good for distance water fishing nations to continue step on us in this matter Mr Speaker.

Point of Order!

Mr Speaker: Honourable Member let me remind you to be mindful of time because there are a lot of other members are waiting to speak as well. So maybe you start to windup your contribution.

Mr Matthew Wale: Thank you Mr Speaker, I am starting to windup now.

Sir, in terms of forestry, what has come to light during this meeting as well is the forestry permits. And I think that those kind of permits it also I think something also past where we probably better rid of them but I think every licenses here I think the government must find the legal way for cancelling them straightaway. Especially those were relate of grant of profit as what the Attorney General have explained to us Mr Speaker, where the government's land and then grant of profit where issued and the company go and harvesting.... it would be useful information to the House... I am not sure whether the Minister for Lands or Minister for Forestry is administering but to inform us of what return we get on this forestry resource on government land.

And so why are we giving away this wealth or this resource go to the private hands with absolutely no return. So we must cancel all those licenses and then it is not Mr Speaker totally outside the realm of possibility. My traditional economics Mr Speaker is to get government more and more out of the economy and allowed private sector to play in the economy and government provide regulation.

But with regards to this matter in government land that have forestry in them, I think the ICSI set up a logging company and do the logging then do benchmarking so that it sets benchmark for code of practice in logging and we're exporting and revenue comes in and come straight and its profits from that it's going to help our budget and the priorities where government have been set. Do not give it to any private company because we're desperately in need of those funds.

Sir, **11.23** in terms of education, I very happy with the outline that the Minister of Education has given us on how governments looks at improving access, the quality and management of resources within our education system. I have mentioned a little bit on this yesterday, but I want to repeat it for affirmation, that it is now the right time to split the Ministry. Higher and technical education must move to its own ministry, and basic education and perhaps science to remain. We must strive to achieve 100 literacy and numeracy in our education system. It is a terrible joke when kids leave our education system and are unable to read and write. Sometimes I saw this in the Solomon Star, they are using English words, but in pidgin idiom.

It is a bad joke that the product of our education system is like that. We can achieve 100 percent numeracy and literacy and we must. I am happy with how the Minister has outlined this that the government will pursue this. I have said before and I will say it again that the transition in the economy that we talk about to processing, manufacturing and service industries requires the foundation to be laid in the basic education sector and technical vocational education. The foundation must on science and mathematics because it is where science and technology will grow. It is important for us to heed these things. Those are some of the thoughts I have. I am very happy that you have indulged me and my colleagues in the House to share these things. I would like to close with a hymn from the South Seas Evangelical Church (SSEC) hymn book: 'O God our help in ages past!' *Our hope*

for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home,' That is what I want to close with. Thank you and I support the motion.

Mr RICK HOUENIPWELA (*Small Malaita*): I also want to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for moving this motion and I am about the opportunity to contribute. At the outset, I want to commend the Honourable Prime Minister for leading the government and all of us this far. The Tenth Parliament so far has had two meetings in the first year of the government. I see this as a huge achievement, so I would like to mention that. I also thank the Prime Minister for bringing this motion which allows us to debate. I am saying this because not too long ago Parliament had had an exceptional experience at least for those of us who are new to the parliamentary procedures. When Parliament has one meeting, we just have a special adjournment. I think this is the second time I debated on a *Sine Die* motion for this year since the DCC Government came into power. That is what I am happy about. The motion is a traditional one and to me is just straight forward and in line with Standing Order 8 (3) and I will support it. **11.28**

Mr Speaker, in my discourse the Prime Minister has reminded us of the principals of debating motions especially *Sine Die* motions. He has also advised us that while we want to keep within those principals and rules of debate during *Sine Die* it is not the time to say almost anything. Many times we use the opportunity for political point scoring on this floor but I think the Honourable Prime Minister also recognise that Members of Parliament should not be limited or be restricted to say and express themselves more particular in regards to government policy direction and actions.

I like the Prime Minister's invitation to us when he moved the motion in saying that this should be an opportunity for collective opinion where both side of the say things for the government to take note of. I think it is a very important opportunity and we must take it very seriously. Sir, I am sure we can all agree that in so doing, even making constructive comments which come with some criticism this cannot be avoided.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that this opposition bench is not here for only for debate sake. Our position is not only that we are the alternative to government. The important role of the opposition is to sharpen government policies and actions. This is why we this side of

the House so far seeing the government doing the right thing. Sir, praise must go where and when it is due and when we disagree with also mention it too.

Sir, in moving the motion the Prime Minister has covered a lot of areas which I will not even attempt to cover. But in the spirit of the principals of debate I will be making my contribution. First, I would like to start on the economy because not only is this are the interest and an area of close interest to me but I firmly believe that when the economy does well all the other things can be manageable.

Sir, what we do now on the economic policy has far reaching impacts on the rest of the economy into the future. So, from this perspective the economy sits at the heart of government development policy. On that note the DCC Government is no exception and on that front **11.33** and on that front, the honourable Prime Minister has emphasised the principle policy intentions for government's economic policy. He has also mentioned deliberate actions by the government towards this policy intent. I am very keen on the emphasis and the intent of the government economic policy direction.

I will be repeating myself but I think it is important to be reminded that the year 2015 opened with a buoyant economic environment, year 2014 returned higher growth than expected, inflation is keeping below 5percent mark, the external reserves position remains above ten months of imports cover, foreign direct investment was strong while monetary sector expanded by 16percent on account of the private sector.

On the fiscal front, the year could not be any better. There was a budget surplus of \$130million at the end of 2014 and strong cash buffers and debt to GDP ratio at 11percent. The medium term outlook is much better than previously thought. The forecast is that the economy will grow much faster than 3percent on average and that over the same period, all other economic indicators will remain firm.

In my intervention during the debate on the 2015 budget, I urge the DCC government to take advantage of this opportunity and sure enough the government took it by the horn, so to speak. The \$4.1billion budget, which was recently passed by parliament, could not have been possible without this positive economic situation. The Prime Minister expressed this in a more eloquent way by saying that this biggest budget in history is fully funded without raising taxes. Of course we have to be on the constant guard against complacency and the mistake of lurks attitude to sound financial management and care,

hence my insistence that due regards should be given to ensuring we do not go down the road of cranking up more debts or run down our cash buffers.

During my time at the Ministry of Finance, we have laid some important cornerstones in this regard. In terms of the budget and its related reforms, we have set out the parameters it will operate under in the medium terms fiscal strategy. Most importantly, with the passing of the Public Financial management Act 2013, it provides a sound legal framework and operational procedure covering accountability, prudential management and ensuring value for money expenditure procedures are in place. In this regard, I am concerned with the announcement that procurement procedures for normal compliance will be relaxed if not removed in the name of efficient implementation of the 2015 development budget. I also hear that there may be actions afoot to make amendments to the Public Financial Management Act 2013, which would effectively water down its prudential standards and compliance requirements. If we follow through, these actions will be a slack in the face of the DCC policy stands on good governance, principles of accountability and responsibility. In fact, this will not augur well with the government stated policy to promote sound financial management.

Let me briefly discuss the importance subject of foreign investment. There are many examples of countries that have progressed to higher income countries as a result of foreign direct investment. In fact, many of these countries, which are now among the most developed nations in the world, have done so from foreign capital. As a developing country, Solomon Islands dependent on development partners assistance for the past three decades of nationhood. While their development aid is welcomed, I think **11:38** what this country needs most is trade and investment. The current practice is only to perpetual the disease Aid dependence syndrome. Solomon Islands cannot depend on development handouts forever. This reminds me of a very well-known Chinese proverb and it goes like this and I quote 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man how to fish and you feed him for thousand years'. I would like to call on our development partners to please teach us how to fish and stop giving us fish. We need to trade with our development partners and that forever live of their tax payers wallets. In this connection we should throw the net wider by inviting other non-traditional friends who might be able to offer more serious trade relationship with us. It is refreshing news to hear the Prime Minister announcing that the

government is at an advance stage of negotiations towards signing up an investment group from mainland China to invest on shore in various sectors in the country. I encourage the government to pursue all avenues possible to make full use of the trade links when have recently established with that country. The Solomon Islands trade policy framework that the Parliament has just approved yesterday is a timely development; it now provides an excellent framework to deal with the matter of foreign trade and investment.

On the issue of governments, it is gratifying to note that this subject is at the fore front of the DCC government's fundamental reforms agenda. It is loadable that the government is able to establish the independent commission against corruption, it is also very encouraging to know that the government is already taking action on the many cases of corruption that have piled up for over the years. I concur with the prime minister's intentions on this matter that we don't have to have to wait for the independent commission because we have a very challenging job at hand. We all know that the entire system is riddled with corruption; the public service, the private sector, NGOs and even the churches. In all cases so far where public officers have been charged, they all have a link with private sector individuals and groups outside of government. We should be all encouraged that the Prime Minister is not waiting for the commission to be established, he is already moving on with cases that have been reported. Another important source of impediment in the country is its political landscape. It is obvious that Solomon Islands politics is controlled and orchestrated by strong vested interests which have nothing to do with national interests of this country. Usually this shows its ugly heads during elections; both general and prime Minister's elections. As you know the last government tried to address this issue through the political party integrity Act 2014. However, that piece of legislation was proven a lame dark for Solomon Islands politics. Solomon Islands politics is so under tamed and so unpredictable than even legislating against it does not work. The situation is so fluid that our political landscape changes all the time, there is no guarantee that parliament will end with the same prime minister we started with. This is uncertainty in its worse form, where the only certainty is uncertainty itself that is definitely bad for long term stability and confidence in the governance structure of our country. It is imperative that we find solutions to this unsatisfactory situation. In that connection I am very hopeful with the Prime Minister's **11.43** assurances that the government will immediately review the current

political parties integrity act 2014 with a view to strengthen it. Sir this unsatisfactory situation must be addressed well before the next election to allow this situation to be continued is to fail our people.

Let me comment briefly on the matter of political appointees, we are all desirers to offer the best to the service of our country. This, of course, applies to everybody holding public office both by appointment as well as by election. In this regard the issue of political appointees is no exception, as a fairly new comer to the political life in this country. I am still grappling with this concept in particular I ask why successive governments have taken the trouble of appointing people to take up very senior positions in government. Only to find them running errands and other odd jobs for politicians and people in government. Sir is not to say this is happening in the DCC government but it is incumbent on the government to ensure the office of the Prime Minister. Which is where all or most of these people are recruited to must have the best brains and skills to serve that office. Sir, my point is that the practice of hiring people without appropriate qualifications or work experience, and especially those with a checked work history is not only a disservice to the prime minister office but more seriously to the people of Solomon Islands.

We note the Prime Ministers assurances that the DCC government has approach this matter differently. Of course they are dealing with it very differently than before, one thing which I now know is different from previous governments is the large number of political appointees. Also unlike before most of these people are now deployed as consultants in two line ministries. The prime minister suggested that we give them time to show their worth before we make any judgment. Of course we can wait, there is nothing we can do now to influence these appointments but nobody knows better than the prime minister, how difficult it is to remove political appointees even if they do not perform. This has been a major source of instability within government in the recent past. Sir I will leave that point as it is.

Mr Speaker, let me assure you that I am a very keen supporter of the DCC governments reforms agenda. As announced the government will be taking fundamental reforms to forge nations building to reinvigorate the government machinery towards more efficiency to forge a stability to fight corruption; and to provide an enabling environment for investment for economic growth. I really want these things as the member for

Aoke/Langalanga says, as I stated in my intervention during the debate on the speech from the throne. I believe these are some of the many issues that have dump in Solomon Islands best efforts to reach its full potential. This somewhat fresh look at addressing these impediments to the economy is what glitters in the DCC government set of policy initiatives and that's what attracts it.

Of all the areas for reforms one area of particular attraction to me is on land, and already the ministry of lands is taking action. In a matter of two weeks MPs were treated to two sessions on how land reforms are being addressed in two of our Melanesian neighbors namely; Fiji and Vanuatu. In both cases my observation is that land reforms can't work with political will, especially at the highest level in the executive government level. But in order to drive action in such a delegate and sensitive issue as land reforms we need a champion. I believe we already have these two very important ingredients. We have a strong political will in the DCC Government and we have a champion, a real champion in the current Minister for Lands. **11.48** On top of that, we have a parliament in the 10th Parliament that is ready to support these reforms, and most importantly our people are very keen to participate in the land reform programs. Indeed, there is no better time than now to take action. I ask the DCC Government to strike while the iron is hot.

I am convinced that if carried through, this will have far reaching positive impacts for the economy, which brings me to the next cluster of reform measures, which the government intends to take, and that is the economy and the financial sector.

On the financial sector, I believe we have made significant progress already. Before leaving government we have instituted quite a strong fiscal stance and sound financial management as well a strong and modern monetary policy framework in the body of the Public Financial Management Act 2013 and the new Central Bank Act 2013 respectively. As to the wider economy, I believe much would be gained if the government should tackle the economy through incentivizing investment both domestic and foreign.

I think the policy direction by the DCC Government to create an incentives scheme for certain selected areas and selected sectors is the way forward. But we do not have to keep searching. I think this policy objective can be achieved through a combination of decisive and deliberate actions in five sectors of production, namely agriculture, tourism, fisheries, forestry and minerals. The idea is to provide a kit of incentives to investors in

these sectors. The kit could include a set of tax incentives, foreign exchange incentives and secured lands. The government could prioritise investment in physical infrastructure and supply of utilities to support development in these sectors, especially agriculture and tourism.

In regards to the other three sectors, the priority should be to ensure a strong and sound legal framework that will regulate those sectors. I believe the government has already embarked on the right path with the passage of the Fisheries Management Act 2015 last week, and in that connection I repeat the call for the government to take immediate action on the new forestry bill and mineral bills and bring them to Parliament.

On the federal system, the Government has made known its intentions that it will be taking this through with amendments to the National Constitution. Honestly, I am not sure what the federal system will do to improve the lives of the people in this country. By any measure, the history of our management capabilities at the provincial government level has shown that most provinces are far from ready. Pertinent questions remain that if we are unable to govern effectively under the present provincial government system, how is it that we can do a better job under the Federal System? May I also suggest that we must carry out a realistic costing of this new system of government, otherwise we may find ourselves in bed with another monster that will only swallow our scarce resources at the expense of services to our people.

Another area which I have raised much discussion on is in public sector investment, more specifically physical infrastructure in rural Solomon Islands. I applaud the enthusiasm expressed by the Minister for Infrastructure Development in his intervention yesterday; that is very reassuring. The previous government embarked on this important policy direction through the 2014 Budget. We all know that no economy can function without a functioning air, land and sea transportation system. This is the lifeline of the economy and the country as a whole in the movement of goods and services including people around the country.

11.53

Apart from the economic arguments for our functioning transportation system, this is very critical in nation building, especially for one that is geographically scattered as Solomon Islands. We must need to get up for obvious reasons. To that end, I commend the DCC Government for the commitment shown by investing over 40% of the 2015

Development Estimates towards infrastructure development. The Minister for Infrastructure Development has assured us among other things that, for example, the roads in Auki would be tar sealed this year. Also, the north and south roads would be completely rehabilitated. We all look forward to that and anticipate that the Development Estimates will be spent where they are intended for.

I suggest that our investment program in power and energy sector must be at least doubled in the next three years. During the debate on the 2015 Budget, I made the point that this sector is currently performing poorly in terms of its efficiency and coverage. This is costing business dearly in this country. So to address this, the progress in the Tina hydro project on Guadalcanal, the Fiu hydro project in Malaita and the geothermal project are very positive developments. Also, at the institutional level I commend the board and management of the SIEA for turning the corner in terms of its financial and management capacity.

Telecommunications is a critical factor in our domestic costs. We must acknowledge the good work our two service providers are doing in this sector. But more must be done to bring costs down. To that end, we must accelerate the progress of the optic fiber cable project, which I signed in 2012, and I encouraged the government to follow through with this important infrastructure projects to completion quickly.

Rural development has become the catch phrase in Solomon Islands political platforms, and why not? Apart from our three colleague MPs in Honiara, the other 47 of us represent the rural population. We represent more than 85% of the population of this country. Therefore, it is correct to ensure and it is right to ensure that the majority of the population is not deprived of government services and important development projects.

The right thing to do is to invest in the majority of our people. The right thing to do is to ensure that the majority of our people are reached in terms of services. Why is this important, you may ask? Simple! As we see so many times before during bad times, the Solomon Islands economy has been sustained by the resilience of the small holders in the productive sector. These small people reside in rural Solomon Islands. More investment in rural Solomon Islands will surely ensure not only a sustainable economic growth path but enhance economic opportunities for the majority of our population.

This approach will not make sense to most people, given the geographical setting and the demographics of Solomon Islands because this is an approach which will mean investing heavily in fiscal infrastructure projects that makes no economic rationale. However, the government has to take the decisive measure to incentivize economic activities. The rural areas of Solomon Islands are where the potentials for sustainable economic growth are to be found. And it is the government that must make these big investments in infrastructure.

While on rural Solomon Islands **11.58** I wish to make some comments on further investments in constituencies. On rural investment, the government's policy direction for enhancing economic activities in the rural areas through population centres is an attractive proposition to me. Call it development centres or economic growth centres or small towns or rural towns or whatever names you call, to me it is just the same. It is the same thing to me. I believe it is the right development policy approach for Solomon Islands where the constituency becomes not only the target, but also the delivery vehicle for rural development.

Allow me to explain why I believe in this. For Solomon Islands, this is the way to achieve broad based economic development and to provide economic opportunities for the majority of our people. Secondly, over the years, governments have tried to forge development throughout this country under various forms of government systems. The civil service that the government relied upon to provide services is none existent in most rural parts of the country. And after more than two decades of operation, the provincial government system has been unable to provide an alternative so we are, therefore, left with the new alternative through the constituency offices. Be that as it may, it seems this remains the only workable mechanism. Despite all the criticisms we have received over this, the constituency channel has proven to be an effective delivery vehicle for development and services to rural communities throughout this country. It is working because there is political will and a desire to deliver. However, I should also say that we must recognize that there are major problems and big issues still remaining in terms of its efficiency and governance structure. Much of that is to do with its capacity constraints as well as shortcomings in a functioning governance structure.

We should, therefore, focus our attention on ensuring the delivery vehicle is working. We must establish operational mechanisms and systems in the constituency offices to facilitate delivery of development. Such a mechanism must include procedures for appraisal, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This calls for a revamped manpower and institutional capacity building program beginning at the headquarter level and right down to the constituency level. I am very optimistic that with the DCC Government's renewed emphasis on this delivery vehicle, and under the hard working Minister for Rural Development, we should be able to achieve this within the life of the 10th Parliament.

Much has been said about the important role that Parliamentary Standing Committees play in our young democracy. Many speakers have emphasized that in order for these committees to work effectively, they need to be fully resourced, and I fully concur with that. I also concur with the Prime Minister in pointing out that when these Committees become fully operational, and which they should, all of us, all of the MPs should be fully occupied throughout the year. That would be most ideal so as to enhance the effectiveness of Parliament.

Let me talk a little bit on the Public Accounts Committee functions, which I thank you for appointing me as the chairman. This is an appointment which I intend to serve the Parliament and the country fully. As far as I am concerned I am discharging my duties as best as I can and as expected under the terms of appointment.

The Public Accounts Committee derives its powers under Order 69 of the Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands. Under these Orders, the Committee conducts its hearings and calls for witnesses to hearings. It is under these Orders that the Committee plays the scrutiny and oversight role on behalf of Parliament. As well, it is under these Orders that the Committee reports to Parliament. **12.03** It follows therefore that the PAC like other parliamentary standing committees is an extension of parliament. The PAC does not report to anyone else except Parliament. It is under these orders that my committee conducted hearings and reported on the 2015 Appropriation Bill. The Committee must ensure its report is as objective as possible. In line with that, the report has to provide as much information as possible to Members of Parliament to help them have a good understanding of the budget before debating it. The committee makes such recommendations as it sees fit. As you would appreciate, with well trained manpower, the

secretariat staff and supporting staff plays a very active role in the Committee's operation, which compared to previous years a lot has been achieved in the PAC reporting. So, criticisms that our reports are too technical are therefore in my opinion misplaced and inappropriate. This can only be attributed to a misunderstanding of the PAC mandate.

I now wish to comment on the matter of the recent Parliamentary Entitlements Commission (PEC) awards and the membership of the Minister of Finance and Chairman of the PAC on that Commission which has attracted so much media attention in the past weeks. On the matter of my membership on the commission, that is in accordance with the Constitution which there is nothing I can do personally about. I could remove myself from the commission and the PAC but that does not address the situation. It is a requirement under the law that the PAC Chairman is a member of the parliamentary entitlement commission. That is also the case for the Minister of Finance. Unless the constitution is amended that membership remains.

Sir, I think there might be good reasons for the inclusion of the minister of finance and the PAC chairman to be members of the commission but honestly I cannot see the rationale. As I have said before the conflict of interests are too great to ignore and while the intent of the law may be good and straight forward at the end of the day both individuals are still members of parliament.

As you know the main function of the commission is to decide on the welfare of members of parliament. So how can it be possible that they could not have a conflict of interest? Even if they declare a conflict of interest and remove themselves from meetings they cannot be excused from the decisions of the commission. So I believe it is the right thing to do to remove them altogether.

Sir that is the background to my previous comments during the PAC hearings on this matter but unfortunately these comments has been taken out of context. Also this is not the first time for me to make these suggestions, in fact I made the submission in 2011 and 2012 but these were not taken up. This time I have already spoken with the Chairman of the constitutional review committee to take the relevant amendments on the Constitution that should see the removal of both the minister of finance and chairman of the PAC from the PEC. I hope this parliament will do the right thing to support those amendments when they come.

Sir, the other issue of public uproar is to do with the various awards recently given to Members of Parliament through the parliamentary entitlements regulations. Sir, as normal human beings **12.08**

Mr Rick Houenipwela:...As normal human beings, Members of Parliament are entitled to some remunerations, which should be pitched in line with the levels of responsibilities and duties they carry. However, this cannot be pitched in isolation of what is considered as justifiable. I agree with the public demand for a justification to these new awards. I personally think they are excessive, particularly the exemption from PAYE tax and the new pension entitlements. To that end, I strongly recommend that these new awards be withheld immediately and since the PEC is under the office of the Prime Minister, that the commission should be directed by the Prime Minister to review these new entitlements with the view to reduce or remove those new entitlements that are excessive with immediate effect.

Let me now turn to other important matters and this is to do with my constituency. I would like to reiterate the suggestion by the Leader of Opposition and investments in the infrastructure must be strategic in nature as well as in terms of their locations. In this regard, I commend the DCC government for their continuing with some of the very important investment projects in the southern region of Malaita province. I am pleased that through the Ministry of Rural Development, the Afio Economic Growth Centre Project continues to feature in the government development programs. Under the Small Malaita Constituency Development Plan and Programs, Afio Development Centre is an integrated and multi sector project. It includes capital development activities in aviation, maritime, roads, industrial sites, telecommunications, health, energy, police and security and the development of the township at Afio itself. I cannot overemphasise that this is a very important project for the southern region.

In that regard, let me at this juncture; allow me to ask my people in Small Malaita constituency as well as in the southern region of Malaita to join me in acknowledging the government for taking action on a number of specific projects in the region.

Firstly, please my people join me in thanking the Minister for Health for his confirmation that the Ministry of Health is now progressing with the Afio Hospital Project. A doctor can be posted there at any time now. There is a house waiting for him or her.

Secondly, we thank the Minister for Police and National Security for his assurances that the project on the new police station and staff houses will kick-off this year. We are ready with land and people to do the work. You just tell us what time start work.

Thirdly, I ask my people to join me in thanking the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs for his commitment to complete the structural designs and site plans for the new court house for the southern region this year. Please complete the plan because the land is ready.

My people of Small Malaita constituency and the southern region of Malaita province, we thank the government for all these firm commitments for the projects that I mentioned.

While on my constituency matters, allow me to also thank my people **12:13** small Malaita constituency, for their patience. To the constituency as you all have known that the budget has already passed but we will continue to work through the procedures. There are many administration issues to work on including the appointment of the CDO, CPO and Accountant in which the Minister of Rural Development had already assured me. I will have to check today or tomorrow if our workers have already appointed. As soon as those formalities have been completed then I will make a visit throughout the constituency upon your preparation. Let me extend this to the principals and Heads of educational institutions where we have credited money, we pledged under our small Malaita constituency school fees assistance scheme, a number of schools, including SINU and USP. Do not send the students home but send your invoice to us and the ministry of education will pay the fees. I will make my constituency visit, this is a continuous of my constituency tour which I haven't completed last time, however, at present I will visit members on zone 1, 4,5,6 and 7. Thank you Speaker for allowing me for the brief commercial.

I would now turn to the second meeting of the 10th Parliament, I joined other colleagues to thank His Excellence the Governor General for gracing this parliament by attending and addressing our second meeting. We met more than two weeks, we debated a number of member's motions and questions that were tabled on the floor, and also the

house dealt with two significant Bills namely the 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015 and the Fisheries Management Bill 2015. These are two very substantial pieces of legislations, not only in terms of their size in volume but also in terms of the extensive nature of the impact and what they have covered. At this time I want to congratulate the two ministers concerned; the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Fisheries for taking these important legislations through to passage.

I concur with the Prime Minister that this meeting has been successful, of course that would not have been possible without your able leadership in guiding the meeting procedures to deal with the business before the house. I also want to register my appreciation for the leadership of the Prime Minister to ensure Government business is dealt with effectively, but also he said that he listens intently to what we are saying on all three sides of the House. That to me is most encouraging, this is why we have parliament and I take that Prime Minister's assurances, that what we say on this side of the house does not fall on deaf ears. **12.18**

Let me now acknowledge some of people that are helping us. Our development partners who have persisted with us in supporting us in our strife to bring development to our people. Our special thanks to those countries that have missions and representative officers here in Solomon Islands. We value your continued dialog and engagement with our government on our development aspirations. Sir I also wish to thank those over our donor partners who continued to promote investment opportunities in Solomon Islands. And who have made some presence in the investment community here, that is an important vote of confidence in the country and we really appreciate that. I think the most issue for us is not to take that for granted, we must not undermined that confidence; we cannot afford to weaken our resolve to do the right thing. So we have to persist with reforms agenda to further enhance and improve on good governance, accountability and transparency.

In closing, let me offer my thanks and appreciation to a number of people whose contribute has made the second meeting of the 10th parliament a success. First to the members of the two standing committees which we are members and this is the Public Accounts Committee, and the Bills and Legislation Committee, I have learned a lot through these committees and as noted before, I am keen to continue serving on those committees.

Secondly the committee secretariat and more particularly the secretaries to the PAC and the Bills and Legislation Committee; these are very dedicated and professional staff we must look after them well and so I renew the call to strengthen the committee secretariat so that parliament can able to discharge its role more effective.

Thirdly, to the parliament office and especially the clerk and his staff for taking charge of the logistical support to the parliament during meetings and outside of meetings; I also want to acknowledge everyone such as the securities, accounts officers, and the women who work tirelessly sometimes late in the evenings to make sure that the meetings runs smoothly. Fourthly, I want to reiterate my thanks and words of appreciation to the prime minister and the government for taking us through the past two weeks and allowing us to debate matters of importance to this country and our people. Lastly but not the least of course yourself as well as the deputy speaker for the fine effort in guiding and ensuring that the debate is constructive and controls the manner in which we conduct our debate and also that we do not misbehave. With these remarks I support the motion.

Mr CHARLES SIGOTO (*Ranogga/Simbo*): I shall be brief with my intervention, I only have four pages to contribute to this sine die motion. Thank you for allowing me to take the floor on behalf of my good people of Ranogga/Simbo Constituency. To also contribute on this motion of sine die which was move by the honourable prime minister last week? The motion of sine die is a motion that seeks the support of this honourable house to all parliamentarians to stand sine die. It is however an opportunity that we, the Members of Parliament can raise to the attention of the government concerns, issues and **12.23** and development needs of our people. Many concerns, issues and development needs have already been voiced on the floor of this Honourable House for decades but little does any attention rendered on these many valuable contributions by our institutions and government.

This is the 10th parliament and it is a historical milestone in the young history of our Parliamentary system. This is on this significance that leads us and the executive government of this tenth parliament, must be willing and be able to show a mutual commitment to impact change on the lives of the people of this nation. We must first demonstrate change by compromising our political differences to be able to identify and

collectively address the urgent development needs of our people together as leaders. As leaders we must serve the best interests of this nation, regardless of which constituencies and which side of the House their members are associated with.

Let me begin my intervention with the 2015 budget session. The Westminster system that the country had adopted since independence with regards to debate on the Appropriation Bills is unnecessary. The process prolongs the people's budget, it would be better for the PAC to have enough time to research, investigate and enquire into the budget and only to bring to the floor of Parliament the relevant changes they found for parliament to debate and deliberate on, I hope the DCC government will look into this.

The fight on corruption cannot be fought by institutions and laws alone, the war on corruption must begin within us and as leaders and as individuals. We already have good policies, good legislation and good laws in place, what is left is we do need corrupted people, we do not need bad practises, we do not even need bad attitude and behaviours, what we need is good and honest people to take this country forward. Solomon Islands is located in a prom disaster area and the impact of climate change has been the increase the pretence of droughts, floods, sea-level raise and lose of biodiversity, triggering food and water security. These disasters have pushed portion of population from the traditional ancestral land to urban centres, relying more and more on imported food; these populations in particular are more vulnerable for social problems in this town and other centres as well.

On health, there needs to be a national airport to guarantee access to affordable and quality medicines including the diagnostic services with skill manpower to deliver on these services. The government must ensure everyone receives adequate treatment and services. As a least developed country, the government is being called upon to make simple investments in smallholder farms, **12.28** allowing our population to shift from slash and burn agriculture to commercial agriculture. We need technology and infrastructure to establish food banks and phase out unfriendly environment destructive economic operations including logging.

The recent passing of the people's budget as aroused a lot of expectations by the people. The budget was dedicated in their name, and I must take this opportunity to remind the executive government not to divert its commitment but to deliver on its promises. The government's promise to build infrastructures, develop growth centres,

building hospitals and schools and the promise of protecting the entrepreneur interest of indigenous Solomon Islanders must be attended too. Failing to do so will result in the people losing trust in the government.

The government must protect the indigenous commercial activities such as farming and selling of betel nuts, operating of public transport and even selling of fish and chips. These are the only commercial activities that the financial in supporting our people. Failing to protect and reserve these business activities, foreigners with one day monopolise these opportunities. If there is any hope to help our local people to expand their betel nut farms, their potato farms or improve public transport, their hope is on the mother government of the day.

To rely in many promises and expectations of the government this government must be serious in its review and reforms within its machineries and ministries. The realization of any government of the day's policy depends very much on the effectiveness of its ministries. Our government ministries and institutions must be reformed and transformed to be able to deliver the much needed services effectively to our people.

Before I resume my seat it would be irresponsible of me not to acknowledge the DCC Government for tabling to this Honourable House the 2015 Appropriation Bill and the Fisheries Management Bill. I thank the government for bringing these two very important Bills to be passed in this Parliament. I must also take this opportunity to thank yourself, your Deputy and the Clerk of Parliament and your staff who tirelessly work hard behind the scene to make this meeting run smoothly. I must also take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their continuous support in government priority.

Lastly but not the least Mr Speaker, I must also thank my good people in Ranogga/Simbo constituency for their trust, confidence for electing me back to this Tenth Parliament. Let us work together as partners deprive on development aspiration. Ranogga/Simbo constituency had a ten year strategic development plan in place. We have now moved on to village development plans, for all our villages in the constituency. This will be accompanied by delivery and implementation plans. Ranogga and Simbo is ready to deliver the DCC Government people's budget. I would like to remind the government that we are ready.

This is my second term in Parliament and I come to realise why this country does not move forward, as expected. That is because every successive government that comes into power have their own plans, their own policies, their own priorities. One government goes out and another one that comes in changes everything. Even within a government, when the leader steps down new plans come up. I would like to encourage the Government, and this time it is the DCCG, I like your policies, it is time that we put in place a strategic plan and long term vision for 20 to 50 years and every government that comes into power must follow this plan, only the leader changes but the plan remains in place for every government that comes in to follow. I think this is the way forward. I want the Prime Minister and your executive government to look into this so that we put in place a plan that every government that will come in future will follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister for his strong leadership, his strong vision to take this country forward. I would like to encourage him to continue leading this country. Let me remind your executive government and remind you of a common saying "When the going gets tough, the tough gets praying". I think this is very important Mr Prime Minister. The country is praying for the government. Christians are praying for the government. When you see challenges and tough times ahead, go down on your knees. That is how the tough get through.

Mr Speaker, let me finish by stating that, there is a tendency that we say the right things in such high level meeting as in this parliament, but desperately fail to work the talk when we leave this Parliament. We all know what needs to be done, but we continue to lack the political will to do the right things as leaders. I pray that this will not be the case after this Parliament. I urge everyone that whatever commitment we make here, let us act on it with haste as lives depend on it. God bless Solomon Islands, I add support to this motion and I resume my seat.

Sitting suspended for lunch break

2.12

Parliament resume

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members I have a request to make. I acknowledge in the public gallery are grade 6 students from Vura school. Please welcome them.

Earlier on we have skipped a question by the Member of Parliament for West Makira. So I will now ask the Member of Parliament for West Makira to ask his question.

ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

Hon. Derick Manu'ari, MP for West Makira to the Minister for Communication and Aviation and the Minister for Finance and Treasury:

- (i) Assure Parliament of the financial viability of Solomon Airlines under the current CEO given its weak financial performance and on-going failure to report on its operations as required by the SOE Act?
- (ii) And assure and guarantee the House of the safety of the operations of Solomon Airlines in light of the recent sacking of two qualified technical airline personnel who have relevant technical backgrounds to safeguard safety?

Hon COMMINS MEWA (*Minister for Communication and Aviation*): Thank you Mr Speaker. With our indigence I will accommodate that in my Sine Die motion.

MOTION OF SINE DIE-Continues

Mr DERICK MANU'ARI (*West Makira*): Thank you Mr Speaker. Before I begin my contribution on the motion I would like to thank the Minister for Aviation for his assurance to include the answer to my question in his Sine Die motion.

Sir, I thank you on behalf of my people for allowing time to contribute in the motion moved by Honourable Prime Minister; "That at the adjournment of Parliament on Wednesday 29 April 2015, the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall then stand adjourned *sine-die*."

Sir, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for moving this motion and giving us time to raise issues and comments on matters important to this House and also to the people of this country. Sir, in moving the motion Honourable Prime Minister has made reference to...2.17...Standing Order 8(4), which sets out the scope of this motion is to be debated. The Prime Minister further stated that it is important to draw attention to matters that carry national significant and matters that are either work in progress or major policies that need the input of parliament right at the beginning. On that regard, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the Prime Minister for his open mindedness in moving and in allowing Members of Parliament to freely express their views on behalf of our people during such Sine Die Motions and his assurance that government will be taking note of matters of substance raised by members of the house.

I will be raising issues in relation to this second sitting of parliament as well as matters of relevance to my constituency as well as other related issues regarding ongoing policy and political discourse, not only nationally but also internationally.

Before elaborating, I wish to take this chance to thank you. Mr Speaker, for your unwavering commitment and patience in presiding over the importance business of this honourable house. You have shown true commitment and service to the people of this nation in your able conduct of parliamentary deliberations. On the same token, I wish to extend the same appreciation to the Deputy Speaker for exercising his role as Deputy Speaker during this sitting of parliament.

I would also like to also extend a token of appreciation to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, Sergeant at Arms and the staff of parliament who deserve to be praised for their roles in ensuring that parliament proceedings run smoothly. Some of these people usually wake until early in the morning during parliament sittings. I thank the Hansard officers for ensuring that all our contributions in this house are accurately recorded and transcribed. I also thank the media officers for ensuring that our people in the rural areas are updated and

are able to listen to the debates of this house. I also thank the officers in the officers in the co-operate services, the library and research departments, the committee secretariat, the auxiliary staff, security officers and of course the staff of the accounts department. These are the hardworking behind the scene and I sincerely thank them for the parts they all play in ensuring that this 2nd Meeting of the 10th Parliament is conducted and smoothly concludes today.

To all the hardworking permanent secretaries and the good ministers who have defended their department budgets, I would like to commend you all on behalf of my good people of West Makira. Most of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for the successful passing of the budget. You have taken our country into another milestone of which we have completed the easier part, which is the passage of the budget and now we are moving into the most challenging phase, which is the implementation. Everything is in our hands now and I believe that both sides of the house have an equal responsibility to ensure that the intention of the budget is fully realised by our people. These are the very people where the reason of whom we are here today. I think we had enough rhetoric now and it is now time to look at how well we can implement the peoples' budget.

As a member of this side of the house and a new comer to this honourable chamber and institution, I have learned a lot in the last two meetings of parliament. The second meeting has been even more eventful and enlightening for me. We begun with opening of parliament with the Speech from the Throne by the Governor General, and we also had the budget process. As a member of the Public Accounts Committee, I have learned a lot from the unwavering commitments of our senior politicians; such as the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and of course....2:22..the chairman of the public accounts committee; the Member for Small Malaita and the other members of the Public Accounts committee. I am also honoured to be appointed to be the chairman of the Parliamentary house committee and be in the same committee with the leader of opposition who is a new comer in this parliament but has extensive experience in the procession and practices of government, and the leader of the Independent Group and Member for East Malaita who is also a long serving Politician and the Member of the Parliamentary house committee. To you all my good colleague in both sides of the house, I would like to thank

you for your guidance, support and through our interaction in one way or the other you have unconsciously played a major role enabling me to settle down and take my responsibility as the voice and representative of my good people of good people of West Makira. For that I thank you all.

Most importantly; the DCC government as a whole must be commended for taking a bold stand in taking this nation into uncharted water, with the passing of the biggest budget ever this nation has ever seen. To me it is like an adventure and this adventure the vessel is sailing under the slogan of Change and people centered. My good people of West Makira welcome this with much hope and anticipation. My people are looking forward to the implementation of the People's budget, the honors is now on us to deliver and deliver we must. All of us hold equal responsibility to ensure the tangible outcomes are reached. The real measure of the success of this adventure can be realistically measured or critique after the roll out of the implementation process and when the tangible outcomes are reached. The measures of improvements in standard of living, the improved wellbeing and livelihood of our people, high employment levels and returns, improve access to basic services through improved infrastructures, water and sanitation, improve health and medical services, training and education services, strengthening customer purchasing powers, stabilized inflation, high propensity to save and so fore to name are few, and these are measuring, that we will measure success. Addressing corruption is one of the major reforms that will determine the level of government efficiency and its ability to deliver services. It's good to see the DCC government is taking up a pro-active approach in addressing corruption. It is through the attainments of the majority of these positive outcomes that we can truly testify that in deed this is a People's budget. But having saying that I must admit that DCC Government for sure has started on a very high note, as right from the beginning; favorable public opinion was well documented and it's even acknowledged by some of us on this side of house. And it is therefore important that these good public relations are maintained between the government and the People, to nurture people's confidence on the government and investors and the private sector. But I must caution that this confidence of the people on the Government will be tested based on the kinds of decisions the government will be making in the implementation of its policies and programs. I must add that there will some decisions that are even reached outside of the government's direct processes, but the

criticism of these decisions will still be directed towards the government and this parliament house for that matter. As such is the case of the recent increases in our entitlements, particularly the decision to award Life pensions for one termers and non-taxable salary. The question that I've raised this morning on the entitlement issue is the representative of the public opinion out there. I think in my view we have set a very dangerous presidency, I will not be surprised if Union will demanding further increases to their schemes of services to further burden the aliening economic situation we are in right now. The public outcry is very demoralizing and as a new comer in this house, sometimes I feel very embarrassed to be a Member of Parliament. The concern of the public is twofold...2-27 ..

The first concern is on the entitlement and the second is on the PEC membership. On the entitlement much disagreement has been expressed on the pension benefit for one termers; as well as the tax exemption. The logic here is that why award one termers, the fact that they have only been able to win a single term in the house means, in the perspective of voters that they have not perform to satisfaction. Therefore they should not be awarded or deserve any award such pensions. And the second concern is on tax exemption and particular the PAYE emption which we are entitle to have. And that is base on the fact that the tax burden is heavy on all of us. Not only as members of parliament but also as public officers, and public officers are also helping us members of parliament to take care and look after our constituents while they are in Honiara. And on that context or on that regard they too are bearing the financial burden with us some members of parliament. So the question is serve only members of parliament, what about the public officers, what about their schemes of services. Sir this is the concern that the public is raising out there and perhaps it calls for the government. To urgently review our tax regime to lighten or relief the tax burden, this is express not only by members of parliament but also by public officers.

Also in my view it also highlights one very important issue which concerning the need or the importance of having open consultation and dialog with the public in matters of public interest. And in the future open dialog and consultation must be undertaken with unions and pressure groups and other stake holders, to ensure their involvement and awareness of the research and justifications of such increases before such decisions are raised. Sir this is just my observation and on that note, I join the leader of opposition and the chairman of Public Accounts Committee in the call that membership of the PEC be revisited. So that the

integrity of members of parliament is protected, PEC is suppose to be an independent body and the inclusion of members of parliament and at times, former members of parliament in his membership only compromises its position of being an independent commission.

Sir, I understand that the membership of PEC is decided by virtue of the constitution but this house has the mandate to make changes where we see fit. As we are responsible to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of this nation and the people of Solomon Islands. And if we see fit that PEC membership should be reviewed, nothing should prevent us from doing so. For the purposes of good governances I believe it is only right that this matter is seriously considered by the government. This too may also improve the corruption perception of the public on the government and on elected leaders and politicians. And in general may also improve the general standing of the DCC government in its campaign against corruption. Sir, before moving on to other issues I would also like to touch briefly on one of the questions that I have raised this morning. Given that now that issue will be dealt with in the sine die contribution of the responsible minister. In the issue of Solomon Airlines the public, finance and management act, sets down very clearly and precisely the need for state own enterprises to regularly report to government of parliament for that matter. The report should be able to inform parliament or government of the financial performances. This is not only applicable to Solomon Airlines but to all SOEs for that matter so that parliament is allowed to undertake its scrutiny and oversight role effectively. The people of Solomon Islands whom we represent have the right to know, have public money derive partly from their tax contributions have been used. And as a member of the public accounts committee ...2.32... I am aware that many of these SOEs are not fulfilling this requirement and so they should know that they have an important responsibility to continue report. Some of them even have backlog reports and have not able to report to parliament over the three to four years.

This Parliament is an honourable House and our debates in this chamber are covered by parliamentary privileges and immunities. In the course of this seconding meeting of the 10th parliament we have indeed enjoyed these privileges and have fully utilised our immunities by raising issues we are privilege to raise in this Honourable House. But Sir, I have observed that if we are not careful the political scoring will undermine this privilege which I believe is

provided so that we can freely represent our people and as well as for Parliament as an institution to freely undertake its role to hold the executive government to account and within the bound of law.

But during the Committee of Supply stages and as well as during the Questions and Answers sessions, I have noted with much interest that some Ministers if they do not have the answers, they say that they will provide the answer to the pigeon holes but have failed to do so. But I am still waiting for the information to be made available in the pigeon hole but till now, such information is still not there is yet. Besides, I have noted how questions have been answered where the real substantial matters are been brushed aside when questions are been directed. So despite the fact that we have privileges and immunities, we must fulfil them seriously and with responsibilities. That is, the privileges that are provided must be respected and answering questions is a very useful way of promoting the program and activities of government especially to our rural people who are listening to the debates on the radio. It is also an opportunity to prove to our people that you actually know what you are talking about and above all, it is an opportunity to sign and not an opportunity to confuse or build communication barriers. Most of the times, we asked questions for the information of our people and members of the government side should be thankful that we are actually asking questions on our behalf of all of us the 50 members of Parliament. This is because been at the other side of the House you are not at liberty to ask questions that this side of the House can do. Hence, I hope in the future when answering questions, it is important to provide full accurate and true answers as well as when questions are put on notice, it is important that information that are promised to be provided in the Pigeon holes are provided within the given timeframes.

Having commended on those general issues with regards to the second sitting of the Parliament, I would like now to turn to some current policy reform issues. Firstly, on the police re-armament program, I understand that this program is now in its consultation stage and I also understand that this is a limited re-armament approach which means, only certain divisions within the force will be re-armed. I have been of the view that the police force must first of all regain the confidence of the people before they are allowed to be re-armed. Even though this re-armament exercise may not include firearms for many people in Solomon

Islands, re-arming the police in general is like; reopening closed wounds given the experiences in the past with breakaway factions of the police force during the tension years and the fact that reconciliation between these people and the police or the government or state for that matter is yet to be done. For that reason, the required level of confidence they oath to hold on our discipline force is still not there. On the other hand, I think the police should be re-arming so that their own confidence in the ability to undertake their roles effectively can be boosted. I am saying this because I have spoken to some people who told that because they reside in outskirts neighbourhoods, their areas are regarded a no-go zones by the police...2.37...at night and this I believe is a mindset that has been established with in the Police Force and Sir, this are very discouraging situation as the very people whom we should rely on a times of need as sometime even afraid of doing their job effectively due to lack of adequate protection.

Sir, I am raising these two sides of the same story to demonstrate that while we now focus on limited rearmament and any thoughts of rearming the whole police force must be thoroughly approach, living the stones and sand in our considerations and in the whole process I am the interests of our people must be put first rather than any other.

Sir, in general any review of legislation, any legislative review must be done for sole purpose of bringing good or positive changes for outcomes to our people. Our people must be the main focus in our drive towards all forms of reforms and well it be structural legislative or so forth.

And sir, at this point I wish to since I haven't had the opportunity to do so during the committee of the whole deliberation of Fisheries Management Bill, I would like to congratulate the good Minister for Fisheries and Member of Parliament for West Are Are for brining before Parliament the Fisheries Management Bill and its successful passing.

Sir, it is a step in the right direction as it provides direct linkages with our grassroots people and the government. However Sir, my only concern is that we may be expecting too much out of our rural people who may lack the capacity to actively engage to meeting expectations. And I am referring here Sir, to this structure which has been set down by the Act which provides for establishments within communities and the requirement for them to provide regular reporting to the province and to the national government for that matter.

Hence, the national government and provincial government must closely collaborate and appropriately commit resources to instil the capacity so that our people are allowed to meaningfully participate in the management of our fisheries resources. Without the capacity our people will be merely used as rubber stamps at the advantage or the benefit of others and this circle of unstable development experienced within other sectors of the economy will continue to remain as obstacles to sound economy development and advancement.

Sir, further I would like to highly commend the good Minister of Lands and Member of Parliament for East Are'Are in leading the government of land reform program. Sir, for Solomon Islands to experience table long term economic growth, land reform is paramount and perhaps the most important question now is where we should start.

Sir, we have heard from the experience of our neighbours in Fiji and Vanuatu and some of us are aware of the case of Maoris in New Zealand and I think Waitangi Treaty concept. It is important that we get the best out of this cases and however, in all the affirmation the jurisdictions the common denominator in my view Sir, is that they all have well established traditional political structures in place, there structures are already in there before this land reform programs were ruled out.

In Solomon Islands the manner in which our traditional political or governance structures are organised various across regions. So I believe that the strengthening of this local governance structure should stand as perquisite to any land reform programs and this also includes consequential legislative amendments to ensure sound implementation of any land reform programs.

I am saying all these to raise this concern that I have but I am sure the Minister for Lands is are well aware for all these and I trust that the role out of the land reform program will taking into account all these.

Sir, on education reform, I look forward to the review of the Education Act and eventual submission of the Bill to this House. Our Education sector Sir, needs serious overhaul and on behalf of my people I am glad the good Minister for Education is taking the step in the right direction.

We need to fully implement TVET policy so that we move away from the system that lack equipping our children with the necessary skills to survive in life will come up with a

system of mould a person to become a discipline and useful citizens, beginning from youth up to adulthood.

Sir, ..2.42 ..what we want is a system that can prepare our young generation to move away from the mentality that formal education equals formal paid employment. That mentality brewed by the current education system we have has brought more damage to the mind sets of our children than benefits. We need a system that instils practical life skills on our children rather than a system that only indoctrinates them, but does nothing to prepare them for the realities of the real world.

Sir, still on education, I would like to urge the current DCC Government to revisit memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with the University of Papua New Guinea under the previous government and look at ways to strengthen that commitment. I understand that the MOU has lapsed in 2012, and since then the UPNG Open Campus here in Honiara has scaled down its activities, with literally no staff to oversee its operations. This has affected many of our students who have enrolled with the institution, and effectively they have lost a lot of money because of the downgrade or scale down of UPNG's activities in Solomon Islands. Also such intervention should include the translation of the scholarship deal signed by the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in 2014 for the sponsorship of students studying at the UPNG Open Campus. The students who have applied for the scholarships are still waiting for any response from the government or the PNH High Commission, and they need to know the status of these scholarships so that they understand what is going.

Sir, having saying all that, I would like to sincerely thank the Minister for Education for taking up the call made by some of us to assure our local school administrators of our commitment to fund school fees of student studying in the local institutions. Given the delay in the availability of school fee grants, some of us have not been able to meet all the school fees of our students and they are now asking us if we can pay their school fees as soon as possible, otherwise our students will be sent home. But I thank the good Minister for proactively addressing that in a circular that is yet to be produced to prevent our students from being sent home.

Sir, I would like now to comment on two issues close to heart before I conclude my contributions. The first issue is on our people living with disabilities. I once again would like to reiterate to the government the need to seriously look into providing appropriate infrastructures for our people living with disabilities. The life they are living is incomparable, and I am saying this as a person whose father was disabled at the early age of 12, and it is with much disappointment that in the current budget many of these concerns or the plights of people living with disabilities have been side-lined by very big margins. I believe it is appropriate that issues related to people living with disabilities should not be regarded as health issues, but as social welfare issues so that they can be proactively addressed.

Sir, finally, I would like to conclude my contribution to this motion by thanking the Prime Minister for shading light on Solomon Islands position on the issue of West Papua. I could not agree more with the Prime Minister that the issue of autonomy or political determination for West Papua is a domestic matter for Indonesia to deal. For the Solomon Islands, the most appropriate way to deal with the issues is to refer the matter to the United Nations. That is the part that Solomon Islands as a sovereign nation is taking and I understand the logic behind that as the most appropriate way of dealing with the autonomy issue. But my question arises on the human rights abuses violations that are currently taking in West Papua. I wonder whether these are also domestic issues. As a member of the United Nations, Solomon Islands is a party to the United Nations Universal Declarations on Human Rights. And therefore, I believe we are obliged to speak out on these issues....[2.47](#)..especially when they are happening right at our backyard.

Sir, in 2011 the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was asked in New Zealand regarding the question on the plot of West Papua and he responded by saying that the right place to discuss West Papua issues is at the United Nations decolonisation committee. He also expressed that the United Nations do all to ensure that human rights will be respected in West Papua and whether you are an independent state or non self governing territory or whatever the human rights issue is an inalienable and fundamental principal of the United Nations.

Hence, the issue of West Papua should be viewed also on a human rights perspective. Let us put aside the autonomy part of it and let us deal with human rights issues. Let us put a human face to it so that we can have some sense of what they currently enduring.

Sir, we need not to be reminded that we went through few years ago during the ethnic tension similar experience but it was nothing compared to what West Papua has gone through over the five decades.

Sir, the saddest thing about the West Papua plot is that almost everybody is turning a blind eye on the ongoing human rights violations and these human rights violations are unchecked as foreign media and human rights organisations are ban from entering the region, not only that but the rights of West Papuans to express their political views is suppressed. Right now a large number of West Papuans are being locked up in the Indonesian prisons for expressing their desire for independence; something they have every right to do so. Some have been in prison for up to 15years now just for raising the West Papua morning star flag which is a symbol for the freedom of West Papua.

Sir, it has been estimated that more than 500thousands deaths have occurred in the hand of Indonesian military since 1963 either through assassination, poisoning, human cruelty or due to lack of access to basic services. This West Papuans have been described as a slow motion genocide where Papuan activist campaigning for self determination are routinely intimidated, arrested, tortured, assassinated and imprison for peacefully expressing their political opinions. Worst still the military and police there are granted immunity for the crimes they commit.

Sir, the human right violation in West Papua cannot be overstated and I am sure within the hearts of my fellow honourable colleagues in this House; there is some room for sympathy. Our Melanesian brothers and sisters have suffered a lot in the hands of oppression and therefore it is the responsibility of all member states of United Nations including Solomon Islands to speak up against the inhuman practises and to find the lasting solution to the situation. For the time being let us put aside the autonomy issue because it is a human rights issue. As we know issues to relating to human rights violation does not have political boundaries but demand advocacy from all sovereign states.

Sir, on the regional scale West Papua was a member of the South Pacific Commission (SPC). West Papuan representatives attended the first SPC forum and continue to participate in SPC meetings until the Netherlands give the authority to the United Nations temporary executive authority in 1962. So you can see that for very long West Papuans have considered themselves as part of the pacific community. On this note I wish to reiterate the call by the Leader of Opposition that the current government should seriously consider the application of West Papua membership in the MSG and perhaps that could provide the much needed avenue for dialogue on issues related to West Papua.

On that same issue one of my predecessors the late Solomon Mamaloni once stated in 1966 regarding the plot in West Papua that if our generations do not do anything about the issue now and forever future generation will condemn us. In other words we have an issue to deal with and I believe...2.52...it will be dealt with in the appropriate avenues by the current government.

Finally, I wish to take this time to thank my people of West Makira constituency for their ongoing support and I would like to extend this thanks to all people out there in the public who are listening out and I share the same concerns I have raised. I thank the government for the understanding in me raising these issues, which I believe represent the perspective of the people. I thank the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Aviation for their assurance that they will be providing answers to my question in their Sine Die contributions. Sir, thank you for allowing me this time and I have taken up much time to discuss these issues but I thank I thank you most sincerely for this time. With those remarks, I support the motion.

Hon. SNYDER RINI (Minister of Finance and Treasury): Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be very brief. I do not want to repeat the things I said during the budget debate because other colleagues would also like to speak.

First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr Speaker, and your staff for organising this sitting of parliament, which is very good and in order. I would also like to thank the Deputy Speaker for his leadership and also for taking the parliament session while we are discussing these bills.

I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition group and also the Leader of Independent and the Independent Group for their contributions in the budget deliberations and also their contributions as well in the Fisheries Bill. Their contributions are valid and I really appreciate the way they contribute to the debate to the debates of these two very important bills.

I would also like to thank my other colleague ministers for their debate in the Appropriation Bill and also the Fisheries Bill. I am pleased with your contributions.

Not forgetting all the staff and all the public servants who have helped to formulate the budget. I must thank all the permanent secretaries of all the ministries, the chief accountant and other officials that are also helping the Ministry of Finance, especially the budget department to formulate the budget for 2015.

The formulation of the 2015 budget was not easy. When the officers are used to the normal budget system, it is very hard to redirect these officers, but I am so thankful that at last they come onboard and we manage to complete the 2015 budget. I am very pleased that this house passed the very important bill, the appropriation.....2:57...: 2015. This budget is the budget of the People of the Solomon Islands. This comes into this parliament to introduce and make appropriation so that all the funding will reach the people in the rural areas. So I am very pleased with those remarks come from both sides of the house.

I would like to turn into the questions which were asked by the member for West Makira and also the issue which comes out on the media and I want to explain it, how the formation of the commission, what powers the commission have; the parliamentary entitlement have offer the entitlements of the members of Parliament, and how the commission deliberates with all these entitlements.

Firstly, I agreed that media is talking about these issues, but I am disappointed; they should do their research properly before bring it into the public. And also the TSI and other individuals, they should not take what the media has said, before criticizing the commission. They should also do their research so that it will give a balance view on how the PEC has come up with the Members of Parliament Entitlements. I want to tell these critics to look at the constitution of Solomon Islands; section 69(A) of the constitution. It mentioned the formation of the commission; it states those three members of the commission; the Chairman and the two members must be appointed by the governor general on the advice of the Prime

Minister. That is the main Law; the constitution of the Solomon Islands. DCC government does not make the appointment and politicize it. Also in that section it stated that the other two members of the commission are person who is holding the office for time being, holding the office of the Minister of Finance, that is why the minister of Minister of Finance it also a member, and it further stated that other person must be a person for time being holding the chairman of the Public Account committee as appointed understanding order 69 of the national parliament of Solomon Islands. That is how the composition of the commission. If you want to change this one; the composition then we need to amend the constitution and constitution is quite difficult to amend. You must have...3-02 ...two third majorities of the votes before you can amend the constitution. Not like other subsidiary legislations, whether it is a simple majority but this will come in the constitutional reform that is why the DCC government will be looking at. Now that is how the formation of the commission. Section 69 – b of the constitution, there it will give powers to this commission, or to talk about entitlements and salaries of the members of parliament. To offer the entitlement of the members of parliament, then the powers will review their salaries or increase their salaries not less than the increase of public service. So its equivalent or high but not less. In section 69 of the constitution says this, even when you come down to section 69 (b) of the constitution. Under that same section, the commission has the power to make regulation to exempt members of parliament on tax liabilities, including salaries and entitlements. This is the commission's work we are just implementing what the constitution says, that is why I say that these people should do their research before they come out in the media. They should say why does the commission has the power, they should look at our legislations or research the constitution. That is why the commission increase the members of parliament salaries and tax free. The increase that was awarded this year to the members of parliament is that last year, the public servants take their increase but members of parliament do not take that increase. So that is why we factored that in this year because the constitution says so. I want to make this clear that the formation of the commission is under section 9 of the constitution. The powers of the commission to exempt the salaries members of parliament salaries and entitlements to tax is under section 69 (b) of the constitution.

These regulations that comes under this constitutions are just like a constitutional law, they are not subsidiary legislations. There regulation comes out from the constitution and if you

look at the same section, section 69 (b) on the last one section 4 (b). It talks about that these legislations or this regulation when they are enforced is just like a provision in the constitution. If you look at section 137, to the constitution it says in 137 (4) when the commission makes its determination it does not subject to any body for any directions and that final. If anybody does not happy with the decision by the commission he or she can make a written submission. And if there is any provision in the constitution which commission ...3.07...it says here that when the Commission made its determination, it does not subject to anybody or any directions, it is final. If anybody is not happy with the decision making of the Commission, he can make a written submission and if there is any provision in the Constitution where the decisions made by the commission can be revised, then they will certainly do it. Hence, if there is a provision for it then that person has the liberty to take the matter to court, so I explained this so that everyone understand the establishment of the commission, its powers and why the commission make the regulations under the current Parliamentary Entitlement Regulation (PER).

On the argument about the members that only serve one term in the Parliament who also entitled for pensions, I will say that in the Constitution it does not have provision for grading members of parliament. Even though they serve for one term, they already contributed to the development of this country, so that is where the commission comes up with the new entitlement. The members that serve for one year have also sacrificed their time in trying to help the people of this country, some of them might be Ministers while others might be backbenchers or oppositions but they are all members of parliament after all. But as I have said, if anybody is not happy about the Commission's decision then he should bring the case to the court and let the court deal with it.

On the member's salaries, it is also determined by the Commission, a lot of people when they heard that the members of parliament entitlement goes up, they are unsettled. But you just imagine that you are the head of the legislature, the Prime Minister is the head of the executive, the Chief Justice is the head of the Judiciary, those are catered for under the constitution. But comparing the members of Parliament salaries to all the SOEs in this country, it is not close and these SOEs are under the Ministers and the all Ministers that are accountable for all these SOEs do not take same level of salaries as SOEs do. The SOEs

salaries are three or four times than the members of Parliament, even the entitlements or even the PS are getting more than the Parliament. I will put that information in the pigeon hole, so that you will see the salaries of all the SOEs, especially the CEOs...3.12 and the Salaries of the Permanent Secretaries and Salaries of ordinary members of parliament. You make a comparison of it. Sad to say that two SOE's have not send the Salaries of their CEO's and I am so disappointed. I will ask them to give me further information on this one. Because this SOE's are under my portfolio. I am disappointed because when we ask for the CEO Salaries they did not submit them because they say it is confidential. But as I have said, I will put this in the pigeon hole, and make the comparison of the CEO's salaries and the Permanent Secretaries Versus the Members of Parliament's Salaries.

Mr. Speaker when you compare the MP's Salaries, it is very low compared with the Salaries of the CEO's and their Salaries are just for their Salaries. But the Salaries of the Members of parliament are used for feeding hundreds of people from the constituency-

Hon. Bodo Dettke:(*interjection*) House full.

Hon. Snyder Rini: the house is full. When you wake up in the Morning, people are already waiting outside, so you don't have the appetite for breakfast. When you are hungry and go back for lunch, but the house is also full- so you cannot even have lunch. After parliament or after office, when you arrive home, the house is also full, so there is no appetite for dinner. So ne Members of parliament you will experience this.

That is why I said the award that the PEC is giving to members of parliament, is justified. Even it is not enough. I will give you another comparison when I have those information ready by next week and I will put it in the pigeon hole. The comparison will be on the Members of parliament salaries in the Solomon Islands compared with our other neighbours, excluding Australia and New Zealand, once I have then I will put it in the pigeon hole. A small country like Tuvalu and Kiribati, took salaries more than us- they received \$AUD50,000-\$60,000 per annum. And for us the members of parliament and even the Prime Minister, if you convert them into Australian dollar, it will be around \$AUD800.00 a fortnight. Like ordinary members of parliament you only receive \$AUD600.00 a fortnight.

Even those who pick apple, received \$500 to \$600 a week. You are the Prime Minister of the whole country you take \$AUD900.00 a fortnight. That is very low. When you compare with the CEO's that looks after only an organisation and that organisation is not profitable but they take more than that one. That does not make sense.

But anything to do with Members of parliament, people jump up and down. Because the public has been informed Mr. Speaker, but if they do their research properly. I must tell the media, you can sell your paper by putting that but please do proper research before you put your article in the media...3.17.....and also ask the views of those people especially the PEC. They should ask the PEC why MPs are tax free. They just put the raw information in their papers.

Mr Speaker, I will now move to the other questions asked by the Honourable Member for West Makira on the viability of Solomon Airlines. I will take us back to 2008. In 2008 I was the Minister for Finance, and one of the Banks, Bank South Pacific, foreclose the Solomon Airlines accounts because they cannot honour their short term borrowings of \$11million. The airline said that after 6 months, they will liquidate it, but nothing has happened after 6 months. Then they said after 12 months, but nothing happened as well. So I as a responsible Minister, I have to step in and talked with the Bank. The Bank wanted government guarantee and I told them that the government will give them government guarantee, and they will make sure they reopen the Airlines bank account. After that we talked with PNG Airlines because they are interested in coming to do domestic service. So we make an arrangement because at that time, we leased Airline PNG's Dash 8. So I told them if we can go into sell and lease back – they will buy our aeroplane and we will lease them to you, to which they agreed. So we sold all our aeroplanes to them because we will need a lot of money for us to refurbish the whole fleet. So they did that and we took more than \$45millions from selling our aeroplanes. Solomon Airlines took all the money and pay back all its outstanding debts, and use part of that money for their working capital. I chose a new board and new chairman to work from 2009. By 2011 they started to make some profit. In 2011, the chairman that initiated the whole reform was removed because he was over 71 years of age as specified under the SOE Act. After he was removed the airline started to nose down again. I am sad to say here that for the last two years the performance was not good.

They were making loses, not in two or three millions, but ten millions – very fast...3.22...and then by 2014. Their estimate will even make them big losses. So what I am saying is that the performance of the airline is very poor at the moment. It is not satisfying requirements of the SOEs Act that they must be making profit, not only Solomon Islands but all the SOEs.

It does not also meet the reporting requirements that are requirement by them under the SOE Act. Even their accounts have not been audited so I call the management to appoint an audit to audit their account. For the information of the House the airline is not viable because they have made losses for the last two years (2012 and 2013) and they will also be making a loss in 2014. So what I am doing now is that I have talked with the owner of the airline for us to try to reform the airline again by looking into the board and the management.

The budget is now passed and I would like to inform all Members of Parliament to try and meet the minimum requirements in the fulfilling the Financial Management Act by submitting your project profile and program for 2015 so that ministry of finance can look at it, approve and then funding will be made available.

For all the bigger ministries I encourage all the Permanent Secretaries and ministers to quickly submit your programs in the ministry of planning, development and aid coordination.

I am happy to inform this Honourable House that I have talked with the minister of planning and aid coordination and that they must have a meeting and told them to at least to give 14days for the ministry to look into the project proposal and endorse them so that the projects can be funded. With those few remarks I support this motion. 3.27

Hon COMMINS MEWA (*Minister for Communication and Aviation*): Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I also thank others who supposed to speak but now I have been given the chance to speak. I have lots to say but there are others that will speak after me and I might be brief so that they are given the chance to speak as well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you Mr Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker for looking after us during this session of parliament. You have done a good work. I would also like to

thank the Leader of Opposition and the Leader of Independent and the members on the other side for their debates on the two bills tabled by the government. I am happy because I learned a lot from their very informative debate. I really thank them for that. This is my second term in parliament and I still have to learn a lot of things with regards to debates, especially insights that are normally presented by members of this house. I am happy about what I have learned so far. Today is our last day for this sitting.

I would like to acknowledge you, Mr Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker. I acknowledge the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and the officials in parliament for the work you have done.

Before I continue, I would like to say that for the last twenty years, it has been said that most Temotu politicians present in this house but they lack the political will that is why there is not much development. When you talk about infrastructure in Temotu, not only my constituency, but from Santa Cruz to Temotu, not much has been done. That is what people say; that we lack the political will. I think that is not the case. I think it depends on the government of the day. I am happy and have no doubts that the DCC will not repeat the same. I am confident that we will see some changes in Temotu. The only infrastructure, maybe for the past twenty years is the Lomlom airport. There was nothing apart from that. We felt neglected. I think that is why people assume that we lack political will because nothing has been done. But I do not believe that we did not say anything in this house and not actually air our grievances. I believe the former Members of Parliament have said something but nothing has been done. I do not think that this government, which I am in, will do something. I believe I will see something tangible in my province; not only in Temotu Nende, but Pele and Vatu as well.

I speak as a senior politician because my two other colleagues are new comers and so every time I speak, I represent Temotu as a whole. I believe....3:32...it will deliver to my people in Nende, Pele and Vatu; we will see something.

Whilst many of us positively look forward for the implementation of this 2015 budget, I for one took time to reflect on the challenges ahead. These challenges are real and they are part of people's everyday life. We have confronted them in the past and we will continue to confront them in the future. If one takes a closer look at these challenges one would find that they contributed to more than 50% why relevant or planned out programs failed.

Obviously, Land remains our biggest challenge in this country, for many projects in the past, despite its relevance and what past government and this government believed that they would do in order to provide economically for our people. We have to have a budget for them every year. This has numerous strains on our budget and negatively impacted on the delivery of necessary services to our people throughout the country. Not only are those but sometimes the cost of these programs costing us ten times more than what it is supposed to cost because of land and land related issues.

Aviation sector is no exception in this case, the land disputes on our airports are numerous; not only on disputes on ownership on these lands where the airports are situated, but over disputes over the maintenance of the airports by communities and contractors. This continues to affect the services that the government genuinely provides in our efforts in resolving it. The cost kept coming in terms of good will consultation cost.

The most affected is Malaita Province and I am sorry to say that where we see the closure of two of its most strategic airports for long periods of time; Gwanaru and Parasi Airports. They have been closed because of Land and maintenance disputes. Government in the past has spent millions of dollars in developing these airports with good intentions, but only for us to see that they are over grown with grasses and not utilized because of land dispute. The issue of land dispute must be addressed and from these experiences my Ministry is proposing a policy guideline that is intended to ensure that Land ownership of all operational airports are acquired or leased by the government and encourages the land owners of these airports to be more organized. There is a critical need for our strategic domestic airports to be upgraded to all sealed airports like the Nosatupe airport in Gizo. This will not only ensure safe traveling for our people but terms of maintenance it will minimize the cost. For this year my Ministry has planned to upgrade Lata, Kirakira, Taro and Seige to seal airports, and once again let me thank the ministry of finance for allocating funds for these proposed projects.

At this juncture let me also inform the house also inform the house that our second propose International Munda airport is entering its second phase. The second phase will involve three components; perimeter fencing, runway lights and navigational aids and fire service facilities. At this point I wish to thank the New Zealand Government for its generosity in assisting us in realizing this important project for our country. My Ministry

has allocated \$10million as stated in the budget to assist and help New Zealand for this 3.37 second phase. There is an increase realization of the issue emerging in aviation in regards to the state of over infrastructures and as a new person in charge of the ministry, I am going to make sure that these are addressed. For instance the Henderson Airport is in dire need of facelift in terms of air conditioning, toilet facilities and linking of the international airport to the domestic airport.

I am glad to inform the House that my ministry has prioritized these projects this year and as you can see these have been factored in our 2015 budget for immediate work in these areas. My ministry has also done consultation with other stake holders such as customs and quarantine at the airport to see that the facilities are also improved to show case our entry point to the outside world.

Mr Speaker, I must also inform the house on the update of the air service impasse that we recently experience with Fiji. Since the temporary lift in the suspension of lights, cabinet has endorse a inter-ministry committee that comprise of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AG Chambers, Prime Minister's Office, Solomon Airlines and Ministry of Aviation. The committee's task to prepare Solomon Islands position to enter into negotiation into Fiji in the coming weeks on a new air service agreement. I must assure this house that Solomon Islands will aggressively seek a fair and reciprocal ASA with Fiji. To ensure that air service by our both airlines between Solomon Airlines and Fiji will be on a win win situation, and not on an unfair trend as in the past.

On the communication front, I am also glad to share with you an update of the marine cable. Despite of the length it has taken to deal with this problem, the DCC government is mindful of the sustainability of this project and it is the process. And it is in the process of making important decisions in terms of the tender outcomes and location of the hookups. My ministry will continue to work in partnership with the private sector to see that the important project is achieved. Mr Speaker, given the increase the increasing ICT and internet usage in our country to communicate with the outside world. My ministry has established the department of communication last year with the recruitment of a director and a deputy director and we will continue to fully staff the department. This department is essential as it will provide the ICT policy issues to complement the ever changing ICT technology we now increasingly use in the country.

Let me now answer the question asked by my good colleague, the MP for West Makira on the safety operations of Solomon Airlines following the sacking of two qualified technical airline personnel. The function of the Civil Aviation Authority of Solomon Islands is clearly spelt out in the Civil Aviation Act 2008. The functions of the director are clearly defined under section 15 of the Act. The director is specifically responsible for the enforcement of the Act. In terms of enhancing safety and security measures of the travelling public that this translates into CAASI develop continuous safety and security monitoring system and resolutions. Of safety and security concerns that arises out of this continuous monitoring system. The general requirements and responsibilities of the civil aviation document holders such as Solomon Airlines AOC. Prescribe under section 54 of the ACT of the act of which 3.42 one the prime responsibilities is to develop and follow a management system, they called it the CASI rule. This part of Act will always ensure that compliance with the relevant prescribed safety standards and conditions are attached to the document are always observed.

The safety and security surveillance system of CASI works well, the confidence that the government of Solomon Islands should consider, is that, Solomon Airlines has had an excellent safety record. The Airline has attained international standards by the recent International Organisation Safety Agency (IOSA) accreditation and also holds the Civil Aviation Safety of Australia (CASA) and FOAC. CASI takes a balance approach to the regulatory safety oversight role and would like to inform the Honourable House that operational safety of Solomon Islands under CASI rule is guaranteed and there are no safety concerns. My other colleagues have contributed immensely to this motion and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their contributions. With these few remarks I support the motion.

Mr PETER TOM (*West Kwaio*): Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my view in relation to this motion of *Sine Die* moved by the Prime Minister. Before I go further into my presentation, I would like to sincerely thank the Speaker, your hard working staff of Parliament, in ensuring that this parliament meeting is conducted in a more effective and efficient manner. I also wish to register my honest gratitude and acknowledgement to the Prime Minister and the DCC Government for being open minded, especially in embracing

the views and recommendations from this side of the House throughout the parliament sitting. Truly, this Parliament has graduated into a civilized parliament. On the same note my sincere acknowledgement goes to my good Leader of Opposition and the Leader of Independent and all the members from this side of the House for showing maturity, good gestures and foremost their constructive debates during this sitting. Not like my colleague, the Member for Aoke/Langalanga who used to say that when he is on the opposition side, he will always feels bad and 3.47 when he is on the other side he always wants to sing a chorus, what its indicating as a quality leaders that we called by God where you live you have something to say and this House wherever you are on whether the Independent or Opposition you contribute to what God lays in your heart. We should be singing a chorus wherever we are, and not only singing when you are on the government side. Once upon time we are from the other side and we sing chorus and even in here we sing chorus too, not like the last time the other one raised a point of no quorum and going out that door and go all the way. Make sure we're this side we should not show that kind of attitude we are mature leaders we must behave and show good attitude. If we are leaders show that kind of attitude, how much you expect from public and our people, no way and I believe my brother the Member of Parliament for Aoke/Langalanga if he is present here is good I know he is in DCC Government and now he is change now and he is convert man and he is no longer experienced heartsore now, he's heal now so his contribution is always rejoice because now he is in DCC Government.

As the democratic elected Member of Parliament for West Kwaio, I am so honored to represent them in this honourable House, and as such my contribution this afternoon will be more constituency focus based on some development challenges, opportunities and, of course, recommendations to be considered on their part of the government. In addition, I have taken onboard some issues of national interests which need consideration by the Parliament.

I would like to congratulate the DCC Government in particular the minister of Finance and Treasury for tabling the Appropriation Bill 2015 to this Honourable House for deliberation. Sir, as the Parliament had just passed the budget we only hope and pray that through the wisdom of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet Ministers practical implementation will be forthcoming.

Sir, as alluded by my good leader of the Opposition in his speech, the 2015 Budget is the biggest budget ever for our country. Mr Speaker, this historical budget is certainly welcome news for Solomon Islanders, it is now the talk on the street and probably in our respective constituencies. Sir, the growing expectation is for the government to deliver, failure to do so will rob the last breath of hope entrusted to us leaders and government.

Mr Speaker, the equivalents to unfulfilled promises can be illustrate as the formation of the rain clouds hence in the even a strong wind tosses the cloud, the people expecting the rain left high and dry. Let us fulfil what we promise for our people. However, as a responsible leader I can only advice my good people of West Kwaio to ease their minds from expecting too much from the government because budgets are just estimate and not actual likewise, I urge my good people to remain at home until such time we receive the portion of our share. 3.52 I want to say this to the people of West Kwaio, even though the budget was passed, just remain in the constituency. Just in case you come over to Honiara and there is nothing ready and will make you angry. Just remain calm in the constituency. We will come down to explain what we will do when the funds are ready.

If you could allow me to express some of the challenges encountered by my people and opportunities available to boost their livelihood. Let me give some insights into the Bina Harbour International Seaport Project. It is now a common that this project has been sitting idle on the tables of successive governments for donkey years. Whether the project is a political propaganda or a genuine one for the people of Malaita, in particular my constituency, I am yet to see the seriousness of the Solomon Islands Government in realising this national project. This time again the DCC Government is again assuring the people of Malaita, but sadly we failed to see any specific allocation against these proposed developments.

Sir, as the official representative where Bina International Sea Port will be hosted, I can only pray that this national project took off the ground. At this transition, it is only proper to revisit the challenges as to why Bina Harbour remains until now. The notion of land dispute is said to be the impediments hindering the said development. On the front let me correct this misconception in this Honourable House, that notion of land dispute holds little truth, perhaps in the past. The crack of the matter is to do with the final judgment from the High Court.

Mr Speaker, there was consent order signed by the main four tribal groups some years ago. I am sure that the order should settled the numerous claims of ownership and as such the remaining four tribes are only awaiting the final judgments of the High Court. It has to be noted that there is no disputes, and given the confirmation 3.57 should invalidate the excuse of tribal disputes pertaining to the development of Bina Harbour sea port project. My only recommendation to the government is to give some weight for the speedy release of the judgment. I also urge that the house of chiefs in West Kwaio must not be left out of the process should we want to see Bina project of the ground.

On another development, let me kindly remind the DCC Government and in particular the Minister for Infrastructure in relation to a couple bridges in the south road within my constituency. These bridges are funded under the National Transport Fund and are vital for my constituency. However, the project was halt for reasons unknown. I am concern that these supporting infrastructures might not be realized sooner or later. With the intended Bina Harbour project looming up in the DCC Government priority activities, I am afraid that such halt infrastructure projects can be a hurdle in providing the necessary link to and from the project sites.

That section of road as alluded to earlier is intersected by some of the big rivers in Malaita and as such demands proper and immediate completion. Not only that but it is the most used road by my constituency for marketing of local produce in Auki or to catch a ship to Honiara. Therefore, I call on the DCC Government to priorities these supporting infrastructure projects.

Mr Speaker, on the area of culture and tourism for both West Kwaio and East I have to say that Kwaio culture can be best preserved for a cultural centaury. All we all know Solomon Islands is blessed with diverse cultures and indigenous knowledge, however many times we seems to forget the socio economic benefits it would impact on our national economy. The fact is that some of the so called new scientific findings are embedded and derive from indigenous knowledge and it has been the bases of new research and acquired knowledge in educational institutions around the world.

Indigenous knowledge is said to be the knowledge of the 21st century. Today as we speak indigenous knowledge concepts are used as a tool to fight poverty reduction, income generation, mitigation and climate change impacts of course a big source of revenue for the

tourism sector in countries that recognize and practice preservation and conservation 4.02 of these invaluable cultural assets. Kwaio can be regarded as backwards in terms of contemporary development undertakings; however I would think otherwise as we are still holding on to some of the most holiest spots and rare indigenous knowledge in the entire world. The stereotyping of Kwaio reminds of a story in the Holy Book; people of Israel during the time of Jesus undermine the town of Nazareth and some even scorn as to what good will come out of Nazareth. Likewise, some might also assume as to what good will come out of Kwaio.

I will not hesitate to pronounce that my good people of West Kwaio still preserve our unseen cultures, hence the need for Kwaio to be preserved as a cultural sanctuary, a commodity that would have the potential to boost the tourism sector in Solomon Islands. The DCC Government needs to consider this idea.

There are other issues that I would like to speak on. I stand with my leader of the Parliamentary Opposition to call on the government to ensure it reviews the composition of the members of the Parliamentary Entitlement Commission by amending the relevant provisions of the constitution, which establishes the PEC. Have we forgotten the hardworking public servants, teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers and police officers, let alone other outstanding issues pending our decisions? I thank the DCC government for embracing the change theory. Can we take some actions into the change concept and apply equity in their relation to the subject matter?

As a civilised parliament, as alluded to by the Prime Minister during his introductory remarks to the Motion of Sine Die, we should not remain silent but let us apply some gastro politics in making critical assessments and comparative analysis so as to justify or nullify the benefits that is being awarded to us by the PEC.

In doing this, we will retain the trust and confidence from our public servants, tax payers and people of this country. At this juncture, I would recommend that the PEC decision should be brought to the drawing board. What I mean is that when we want to make such changes as this, we need to consider others first so that they accept such changes as made by the PEC. Think of others first. This is a principle of a leader. It is a biblical principle of leadership. You think of others first and there will be no complain. ..4:07

In terms of moral education, in relationship to the alternative education you will all agree with me that moral values are declining drastically within our schools and institutions in Solomon Islands. This is a serious issue and we as national leaders have to take serious notice of it. I understand as acceleration, Christian Education (ACE) is trifling in this country, it is almost 20 years but it never got the recognition from successful government. ACE curriculum based its academic learning around God, this nation needs to adopt a holistic education system. Ace Curriculum embraced a system where God is placed at the top of the triangle; character development, principles on what end and the academic subjects on the other. Accommodating such system will give birth to change; a real change of heart, mind and soul. I believe true change is what DCC government aspired to achieve. I quote the great Mahatma Ghandi's word; *'be the change you want to see in the world'*. The challenge is if we cannot be the change now it is only wise to facilitate a platform that will bring the true change for the future of our country. Therefore, it is only pertinent that the Ministry of Education recognizes this establishment; this nation is in need of a new breed of generation who are driving by the values oriented characteristic embraced with sound knowledge and inspired by God in all works of life. On this note, I urge the DCC government to take recommendations on board.

In conclusion, I would rather highlight these sentiments as food or thoughts; I had realized that this very parliament is museum endowed with wealth of innovative and creative ideas invested by our past leaders as well as our present leaders. The richest of the nation is said to be in our national resources. However, we tend to forget the gold deposits invested in this very honourable house. Lest we forget the wisdom of our past leaders, most information, ideas and proposals written in the Hansard remains stein without us taking full action of those resources for the betterment of our country.

At this juncture, it is high time we restore, integrate and consolidate and foremost utilize this invaluable material to assist us in nation. 4.12 Building, in this regard I applaud your leadership and which so thank everyone who serves to preserve the wealth and dignity of this honourable house. Allow me to conclude with the biblical quote, whatever your hands find to do, do it wholeheartedly and not unto man but unto God. Let me remind us that our service in this parliament as national legislations is a higher calling unto God. With these few remarks I support the motion and resume my seat.

Hon. DANIEL TAUTAI KAITU’U (*Minister for Health & Medical Services*): My good people of Rennell & Bellona Constituency, thank you for the chance to contribute to this very important motion OF sine die moved by the Honourable Prime Minister. Mr Speaker, as a first timer yourself you are doing a very good job, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for the hardworking staff of this house for the running of the two parliament sittings smoothly. I would like to thank his Excellency the Governor General for the very important speech in which he sets a high benchmark to which our government will work to achieve in the next four years and beyond. I would also like to thank the deputy speaker for his excellent, especially the passing of the Fisheries Management Bill 2015. You also did an excellent job; I would like to thank the honourable prime minister for his strong credible visionary leadership of the DCC government. Also I would like to thank the deputy prime minister for his support and the leadership of the DCC government. Thank you for the minister of finance for all the hard work tireless work he has put together with his staff, the ministry of finance that eventually the budget has passed. In addition I would like to thank the minister of finance, he is not here but he is in my absence he was the supervising minister. And I heard that he did an excellent job and he did very well, my sincere appreciation for your work. I thank my fellow colleague ministers for all the hard work you do your own respective ministries, thank you for that. I would like to thank in particular to the minister of fishery for the hard work you have been doing and your hard working staff in this 2015 Fisheries Management Bill. You must have stood up 200 – 300 times during the committee stage. And you single heartedly manage the bill very well. Thank you the leader of opposition for the fine contribution and the members of the official opposition, your support for the policies of the government of the day. Thank you for the leader of the independent group and the members of his group for his leadership and we know right from the start he was supporting the policies of the DCC Government. I would also like to thank the chairman of the PAC and his members in bringing up issues with the budget that’s all been sorted out. I would also like to thank our developing partners who have given us part of their tax payers own money, and we are very grateful for the generous assisting to a national budget. 4.17 Also the work of our development partners has done with the villages and the communities with the non-appropriated funds in running some

rural development in our communities. My talk will be short as everybody has spoken about all the other sectors and so I will just confine to health issues.

First of all, I would like to share with you what I have seen in the health attitude perception of our people in Solomon Islands and I am sure with other neighboring countries as well. Before we were Christianised or colonised, we believed that all these illnesses and sickness are caused by black magic, poisonous or some sort of superpower that caused the illnesses that we have. Then comes the time we Christianized or colonized and the western world brought in the new changes and from there we changed our belief that these diseases are caused by diseases. For instance, malaria is caused by mosquitoes and we accepted the western medicines and we build these hospitals and clinics from 1960s to 1990s.

Well, what I have noticed over the years, that perception has changed again. I have seen people who believed that diseases are caused by black magic or poison and it is a pity because what comes out from this is that people do not seek medical advice earlier and there are some disease, especially some particular cancers in women, if they are presented early they will be treated and cured. I know some of the people who have such disease for a long time but they keep saying that they are being poisoned by somebody. Hence, it seems that we are going backwards as far as we believe in the causes of diseases, maybe we believe that some treatment we have might work because it makes sense. For instance, in Rennell if you come with gout or joint pain, we use heat therapy over that painful area. But my advice is that if you have persistent symptoms of some illnesses do not keep on believing such practise rather you must seek medical advice. Some traditional medicines are sold in the streets of Honiara but I must say that if you have a curable disease but you seek medical attention late, it will become incurable. So that is my advice to all of us that these diseases are caused by disease as well. For instance, if you get obese and if you are a smoker, then you end up having chronic lung disease, so the problem with this belief that I have noticed with our people is the late presentation to medical facilities to be checked and treated accordingly.

Moving on, two weeks ago I attended a meeting in Fiji and this was the Pacific...4.22...Health Ministers meeting, this is held every two years and this was first held in Fiji in 1995 so this is the twentieth year of this meeting, the Pacific Health Ministers meeting. And twenty years ago we have this vision of healthy islands and we keep this vision and

theme still applicable to our society today. And in this ENUTA they call it ENUTA Declaration where the first meeting was held where Pacific Health Ministers meeting declared the vision of healthy islands as a place, there are five areas:- I will go this

- (1) Healthy islands as a place where children are nurtured in body and mind.
- (2) Environment invites learning and laser.
- (3) People work and ate with dignity
- (4) Ecological balance is a source pride and
- (5) The ocean that supports us must be protected

These are the areas that the Pacific Health Ministers meeting came up with these declaration 20 years ago and they are still applicable today.

In 2011 this meeting was held in Honiara and the result of it was came out as Honiara Communicate, that says Pacific Region has the highest incidence of NCD that's Non Communicable Disease that needs urgent attention. This vision in 20 years ago still Pacific Island countries still draws inspiration vision for the health of their people of their respective countries from this healthy islands theme. The next meeting will be in Cook Islands in two years time.

We know we have the highest incidence of NCD in the Pacific region. The Pacific region we live in a most beautiful region in the world compared to other region we are surrounded by blue ocean as a Minister of Police has described with this I think he is very right, blue gold. We are surrounded by the biggest ocean with its resources but yet the good climate of this Pacific area, tropical climate and yet we have the highest incidence of NCD, this is the problem.

Some countries have taken some measures to counter this academic. In Fiji for example communities in villages and schools they are declared as smoke free area, universities and I am sure most of you been to Fiji recently anyone are not allowed smoke in university. You have to look for a place to smoke which

Parliament is suspended, according to Standing Order 81, in accordance with Standing Order 10(5)
Sir. 4.27

Hon Tautai Kaitu'u: Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Honourable Prime Minister. We visited a primary school in Fiji which has been declared a smoke free school, and the students know exactly what a balance diet is, and importantly the students are given legal plots of land to make their vegetable gardens. In that school you do not have flower gardens around the classrooms, they have vegetable gardens made by the students. In Tokelau, they have banned the importation of soft drinks into the country. These countries have taken these measures to counter this epidemic in the Pacific. We have an NCD Unit in my Ministry and we are working on the tobacco legislations to ban smoking in public areas, restaurants, hotels, airports, buses and taxis. We have just passed the legislation to put graphic pictures of people with stroke on packets of cigarettes just to see that we do not encourage the importation of more cigarettes into this country. I think if you look at the economics, the quality of good, you need some competition. But I think we have enough tobacco in this country, and I do not think we need more importation of this. Because God has created us, he protected our lungs very well, with the collarbone at top, with the sternum at the front, scapula on the back and the whole rib cage – well protecting our lungs and heart. Then we smoke something in there and damage them. Whatever the government or Ministry do to improve our health, but what matters is one self. If we all believe you need to stay healthy, you will do it. Remember the three 'Ms'. The first 'M' is for mouth, second is for muscle, and the third M is for medicine. If you do not control what you eat, you will damage your muscles, and you might need medicine for the rest of your life. If you control what you eat, control what you put in the mouth, your muscles – heart muscles, brain muscles – will be healthy, and you will not need medicine.

My ministry is working on implementing some of the DCC Government policies. Of course you know the major one is the relocation of the hospital. We are building and renovating more clinics. We have renovated the clinic in Tingoa in Rennell and Bellona Province, and in the procurement plans, we will be building a hospital next year (2016). We are also working on clinics in Paoe, Wagina, Avu Avu, Afio and we will complete the hospital in Tulagi. For Kiluufi Hospital as I have mentioned before, there is a group that is ready to build a new hospital. We also tried to fill up the post in the provincial hospitals with doctors. At Atoifi, I know there was no doctor for so many years. We have now posted a doctor there.

While I was in Fiji, I had a side meeting with their Minister for Health and we discussed their voluntary scheme service where we can have some nurses who are retired – because they retire at an early age of 55 years. They can still fill up some gaps in our workforce in Solomon Islands. It was a very fruitful meeting. We also look at referral of patients for tertiary care in Fiji. They have MRI Scan and specialists who can treat whatever is found with this MRI Scan. Allow me to touch on another health issue that I noticed in Honiara - 4.32 our rubbish collection in town. If you drive up at East Kola Ridge you will see these little wooden frames erected along the street and towards the end of the week you would see lots of plastics heap up there and that is where the flies breed and it is very unhygienic.

My ministry will try and work with the Honiara City Council to make a law where people are to look after their own rubbish at home. Then we zone the town to different zones so that we can have different days to collecting rubbish.

Mr Speaker, I must thank the SIWA and its hard working staff for provide water which is very essential to our homes in Honiara. My only is, are there means in place that SIWA will inform people on when they will discount water? Or if you are discounting then you must inform residence because some families have their water discounted 5meters out of the house. So inform people if you are to discount their water.

I would now like to say a few words of thanks to my people of Rennell and Bellona. The budget is passed but please be patient. I have numerous texts and phone calls of people asking when they would come and see me.

Before I take my seat I would like to remind all honourable members of this 10th Parliament to look after your own health. We have to stay health in order to carry out the implementation of policies of the DCC Government to the very people in our village whom we represent in this Honourable House. With these few remarks I support the motion.

Hon DOUGLAS ETE (*Deputy Prime Minister*): I will begin with the budget and there are three words I would like to emphasize. The three things which come out of this budget is fiscal discipline, trust and clarity. It is a fiscal disciple because this huge budget sits within the laws and regulation which has governance structure. So when we impute fiscal disciple measures to it we implement the expenditure but there is already discipline in it.

Secondly, with the clear policy guidelines of the DCC and work plans for 4.37 corporate plans. We have the trust and I am the minister and the Prime Minister that this budget will be implemented and touch the lives of the people of this country. Those are the three things I am happy about. As we always say, government only have few objectives, be it the government of America of anywhere in the world and that is to feed its citizens, provide vibrant education system, to provide healthcare and to ensure that the economy is sustainable. Those are the main objectives of governments; no more no less. I am happy about this budget because the current talk of the Brettonwoods Twins; the World Bank and IMF, the language has just changed quite recently and during the previous G20, the language already changed in order to see the innovative capital from the globe to fund developing in terms of infrastructure, education, health and energy. I am happy with this budget because we are going to up skill our youths on basic education and tertiary education of an inclusive of 33percent of the entire budget. Health is around 17percent. Initially, by world health standard, you should not go below 12percent. I am happy that the DCC projected the health budget to around 18percent. There are lots of things I would like to talk about in terms of public health and clinical healthcare but I will not do that now.

The problem of capitalism is that we are a state sitting between a colonial setup called welfare state and it is too huge. We have monopoly in water, electricity and we do not have competition in these things. The Finance Minister mentioned the business arm called ICSI to look into that. These State Own Enterprises are huge burden on government budget. G20 is talking about privatisation. The degree of privatisation depends entirely on public policy framework and determined by government willingness; political will. Governments are here to organise a society so that people are happy.

The problem of capitalism in terms of health is that we must guard against people selling out essential medicine list on the streets. For example, people are selling amoxillin on the streets and people do not heal when they take it because it is fake medicine. That is the problem of capitalism. Governments must put guards against this.

Like we said during the debates on the budget, the Minister of Finance made a profound and correct approach into implementing a huge budget....4:42...Great writers predicted that world economy is running towards a recession. So what do you do in these kinds of situation, you will have to use fiscal expansion approach to do, which the

governments can do. Monetary policy is basically belongs to the central Bank, and Central bank can do a lot of things but it increase the spending as a catalyst toward national development approach, that I am happy with the DCC government. Also the funding for infrastructure is probably one of the highest in terms of the budget. The language of World Bank and IMF have already changed in the G20, if you see their discussions they are moving towards innovative capitals how to bolster infrastructure as a catalyst towards development and public private arrangements, thus I have the trust in this budget.

In terms of the vast challenges that we now have as a state, most countries in the world are resolving back to politics as the answer to resolve a lot of issues; social economic and geopolitical issues which the small islands state like Solomon Islands is facing.

I will now come to the issue of West Papua, because I was supervising Prime Minister when the Prime Minister went home for constituency tour, which is when the Foreign Affairs Minister of Indonesia came to our shores. Like any other diplomats, we organize to meet her, there were protest occurring as well. But I had advised from the foreign affairs on this matter. On this regard I would totally agree with the sentiments which one of the colleague has raised, if only he had spoken for another five minutes I would had been crying already as I sat there listening carefully to his words.

In 1969 there have an Act of free choice after the Netherlands have left the place, the five provinces; Ambai, West Papua, East Papua and others, they got a referendum; the Act of free choice in 1969 under united Nation clause, Article 77725. Although in the words of the secretary general of the United Nations, that the hardship of going around all the areas within West Papua, East Papua and other places to find out of the thinking of the fore fathers of the children today as to whether they would want to be part of Indonesia or they would want to be part of another country. They did it and the consensus by votes at that time was that they wanted to stay with Indonesia. So the advice I got from the Foreign affairs at that time was that if we want to deal with this issue, we must be friends with Indonesia....4-47....We must see Indonesia and honour Indonesia as a sovereign state and its territories and its people. With the bilateral arrangement that we had with Indonesia in 1983, we make friends with then we talk with them. The alternative way of doing it is what Vanuatu is doing, they create an act which they called 'Tumi Wantok Act' and that act sets the basis for conversation and discussion with Indonesia in support of the movement.

Because there are small group of movements which based in Holand, West Papua. As a country as state the advise which I get from Foreign Affairs is we do not deal with the small groups but we deal with the state which they called bilateral arrangement. I believe and I am with the prime minister in that and it will come back to cabinet for them to look at, to what they can do as part of the Melanesian Spearhead group which will be held in Honiara on June-July. Our PM would be the chairman and the conversation there depends entire to how our policy or the shift takes upon its shift in terms of our foreign policy. I just touched on what had happen, in view of the atrocities and human right abuses to which have been happening there; our position and the right place to do it is in Geneva. I think our countries as a region must come together; Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and other places we had bilateral agreements with Indonesia. We say that the best place to talk is with the bilateral arrangement. If continue to argue with them we cannot talk with them; the other places such as east Papua, west Papua, Ambai, are sovereign state by law. We cannot argue with anyone and think that if we talk they can listen to us, it does not happen that way even in custom. Foreign Affairs and Foreign diplomacy is all about friendship, nothing more no more no less. It's the decision if there would be at any point in time a shift in our foreign policy, the minister of foreign affairs is here. I just raise this because it was raised in parliament and I think I have the right to talk about because I was the minister and there were a lot of criticism that came to me at that time.

PER is an issue like the minister said is embedded in the constitution of our country. During the Independence Day 7th July 1978, the constitution was put on a silver platter and handed to us. Our forefathers went to England and went they bring it back it was already in there. Section 69 (b), section 69 (a), section 70 which deals with this issue, who should comprise parliament ...4.52..I was a member of it in the last House and was criticised profoundly because of such increases. But during our tour to Samoa and Fiji in year 2010, we went there purposely to see two things, first are to see the High Wage Commission and secondly as I have allude earlier on, we went there to see the Consumer Council.

The High Wage Commission's work is to deal with all the wages in the country. Hence, we send those delegation to study the salaries of these two countries as wages and salaries in our country is done on negotiations alone then finally to master agreement. But we do not have the basis to scale what salary level should the judges come in from and the

same goes for lawyers, politicians and public servants. This is because the disparity between wage and inflation since year 1981, we had data for it but later years like year 1985 and 1966 there was no data then again from 1987 till today there is data and the disparity between wage and inflation in this country is already a 137 percent for the last four years. Hence, that is why before you kiss your wife the day before the pay day, the wage has already been dispatched, lucky it will last long so the honours of reviewing the legal minimum wage towards such things is important in terms of the labour market in this country.

Due to the fact that there was no basis at that time, Transparency Solomon Islands (TSI) has already caught me during the campaign but I said wait to them. But this is because the Consumer Council did not come in the last government and the High Wage Commission also did not come to Parliament, so that is why people are complaining. In the past we already respond to one action that was done but if we plan for it in the last few years it will be good. I was once a president of one of the largest union in this country and I know what is going to happen, there is a time bomb in front of us and so it is the honours of DCC to fix it. So we have already worked with the date, ... 4.57..the Governor of the Central Bank Mr Speaker gets \$380,266 yearly, he gets a fortnight salary of \$16,000 that's with cash and noncash benefit, without any other personal emolument. The CEO of SIEA he gets \$249,000 per annum, monthly salary is \$20,000 the Governor of Central Bank is \$31,000 for monthly. The CEO of SIWA in 2013 he received a \$150,000 per annum, he received \$14,583.00 monthly so he get \$7,200.00 fortnight. The CEO of Solomon Islands Ports Authority Mr Speaker gets \$300,000.00 per annum, \$25,000.00 a monthly, \$12,000 fortnight that's outside of any other emolument Mr Speaker.

The Permanent Secretary is under contract, they have the individual contract, collective contracts are the Public Service. I am happy that you are interviewed then get accepted. For them they can't go on strike because of an individual contract.

He received \$138,000 per annum, \$11,000 per month. The ordinary Member of Parliament received a \$120,000 per annum, \$4,000 per fortnight. These are disparities within the range of higher wage earners. And if you talked about the High Court Judges; my salary when I am in the Opposition and being the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee and I only received \$2,000 a fortnight. When I am the Chief Executive officer of the National Referral Hospital my salary is more than \$3,000 but last year its only \$2,000.

Now a lot of times this disparities need to be underscored, it need to be mention in this Honourable House Mr Speaker. So that we can level out; these people sitting here Mr Speaker, they come out from the ballot box and to honour and respect them when they go out: You will see a lot of our former colleagues and our forefathers where build this State called Solomon Islands to its current form and at this current are now commuting by buses now. I saw Emelio Lee I just saw him loitering around and did not even have a car. He is the person who went and get the constitution in the Latimar House Agreement when they sign it in Lancaster House Agreement in London.

The Prime Minister's they come under an Act of Parliament, also the Speaker will come under an Act of Parliament there will be a bill towards that, then the Chief Justice bill will come to Parliament as well, For us the PER must be set straight and if we Mr Speaker have a Commission to do it, high wage commission then will be doing it correctly Mr Speaker I think it that way.

The wages of Deputy Prime Minister, Prime Minister say \$5,000.00 fortnight, what are we going to do with it, also the constituents consuming it too; East Honiara is the largest constituency in this country and its in Honiara and it's the most difficult constituency which they pressure me every day and they call me conman, conman and so forth ...5.02 ...

while I express sincere apologies towards a lot of hungry people walking around Honiara, those of us who are Members for Honiara are also struggling. When it comes to non-taxable of salary, it is a question of principle. Margaret Thatcher said: "There are no public funds; all of them are tax payers' funds". It is a matter of principle. I do not know if it is a moral obligation to be taxed or not. But we took note of the sentiments that are shared on the floor of this House, and I am sure the Prime Minister has also taken note of that. So I am happy and we will leave it to the Commission because it is an independent Commission to deal with that.

I will come to the autonomy of the judiciary. I want to talk about this because it is uttered on the floor of this Parliament. I did a little bit of reading on that. The autonomy of the judiciary and executive. Many of us when we talk here really want to autonomise the legislature and judiciary. George Washington on the Constitution Day in September 1796 said: "Profoundly penetrated with the idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows. For it is the main pillar in the edifice of your real independence. The

support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity of that very liberty, which you are so highly prized". He made a very profound statement which says: "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence - it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a hard and fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action". The government is also dangerous – it cannot be allowed to be concentrated. He said it must be separated. That was the reason judicial ministers went in the last decade went down to Indonesia and signed what was called '*The Latimer House Agreement*' – the separation of powers. This is already entailed in our Constitution on the Independence Day. If you read books by Yash Ghai - the architect of our Constitution. He said: "We did not wait for them to come and fight for the Constitution. We knew they were coming a year ahead to ask for that. We knew they were coming to London, to the Lancaster House to ask for independence. And we put it on a plate and gave it to them. Here is it. We did not have a Constitution in England, but we wrote the Constitution for you. Here is it lenient towards the West Minister". A lot of people called it 'foreign flower'. The Constitution made the separation of powers. Historian Cleo Clawson once said 5.07 "the government consists of nothing more than a conglomerate of human beings who have within their basic nature understood the nature of men". Basic nature, that instinct to continuously expand whatever power is placed in their hands. This is true not only of evil men but of public religious spirited men as well".

James Madison, the fourth president of the USA who was also the chief architect of the US constitution stated, "If men were angels no government would be necessary." Tomas Jefferson, the man responsible for under winding the American slavery states, 'it would be a dangerous delusion where a confidence in men of our choice to silence our fears for the safety of our rights that confidence is everywhere that par ant of despot ion. Free government is founded in jealousy and not in confidence. It is jealousy and not confidence which prescribe limited constitutions to bind down those whom we are oblige to trust with power that our constitution has accordingly fix the limits to which and no further our confidence may go. All rights are limited to the constitution. Then the question and separation of power then let no more be said of confidence in men but bind him down from mischievous by chain of the constitution.

The approach we have in this Honourable Chamber to advocate the illicit thinking limited by the constitution, written by the letter of the constitution and then say, 'the judiciary must be autonomous.' The legislature must also be autonomous. But the constitution has already mentioned the separation of power. They have also delegated limitations in power.

The power of the legislature is like this; to borrow and loan money; because the public service is paid by Parliament because parliament passes laws and appropriations including others in the Act. That is the separation of powers and limitation of powers. It makes laws for its citizens limited by the constitution and by political willingness the government wants army, navy or military and appoints the head of state. Such things are done by the legislature and that is the limit they can go, what is the limitation of the executive **5.12** head of the government is the Prime Minister. The Executive is the powerhouse. It appoints judges because the legislature and the judiciary are not persons. They are just buildings. Executive is responsible for appointing judges there according to its choice, the appointment of heavyweight lifters, the appointment of the DPP and so forth. It appoints ambassadors and enforces laws and sign treaties and cooperation with other countries in terms of trade and so forth. Executive also grants pardon. The judiciary interprets the laws that are made by the legislature. It hears appeals and makes principle judgements on conflicts in society. But when the legislature makes a law that is unconstitutional, the check and balance is that it will be rejected by courts. So I do not know what independency we are talking about here. These are not business making organisations if we talk about money. No country in the world that I know of is autonomy. I do not see any country in the world that has an autonomous legislature and autonomous judiciary. This is why when Yash Ghai, he puts Executive first because it is the nearest to the people; Government for the people, by the people and of the people. I do not support any arguments on autonomy. It will not work.

I will conclude with some statements on the reforms in my ministry. There is a huge reform in legislature this year under the Ministry of Home Affairs. One of which was raised by the Minister of Health and that the Clean Honiara Legislation. We already the Singapore legislation on that and they did it by virtue of legislation. We cannot do the cleaning up of our town with \$850million for the next five years. It is not sustainable. In Singapore, a

foreigner came and threw a butt of cigarette on the ground and a child picked it up and shows it to the foreigner. This is to show that some places are forbidden by law.

Most of the things would require the amendment of the constitution and it would go through cabinet and through the policy unit to look at the dual citizenship. The target is for those in Queensland, Fiji and the black birders that went to Samoa. That view was an expansionary view in terms of investment initiative. ..5:17 ..: dual citizenship, it is one of the talking point in my Ministry. We will still have dialogues and need be we will bring a paper to the policy unit and try to look at how best we can do. Our blood relations in Queensland and Fiji never visit our country. That is the line of thinking.

In terms of marriage; yesterday I went and open a conference with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home affairs in terms of this Birth civil registration and the idea is to merge, and one of the most key idea which emerge and I am looking at to make amendments is the Same Sex Marriage. We have problems in other pacific islands countries, but it is a constitutional issue and the Billow of rights which is in the sections 3216 must be reviewed. Their rights under the constitution must be seriously looked at.

The other area of reform which will be brought to the cabinet under my ministry is the Electoral system. The choice of an electoral system in this country; what do we want? Do we refer first pass the post which is also used by the United States of America, all of the Europe except France used the Party listing system, the other one is the alternative voting system, and it is also called the preferential system. My officers are working on these. It is important that Laws be reviewed so that we will have a strong government, the other one is the citizenships. The issue of appeal, the high court is the right place. But those are the kinds of reasoning, which caused my elder brother to be jailed, but he eventually won his case, he was acquitted by the courts. We need not make mistakes on issues that have gone to court. So basically this is the rundown of what is going to be happening in my Ministry in this fiscal year.

The Public Accounts Committee chairman raised few important things which I just want to point out one thing. I am happy when he raised those points and the cost of investment in the country is very high. I am happy that the Prime Minister and the DCC policy are looking at packaging some things in terms of tax breaks, Land and other things. So that when investors come into our country, we can offer them something. Investment of

this country is the blood stream of this country without which you cannot create jobs in this country, cannot build infrastructures in this country and cannot have growth in this country. Income inequality will remain....,5-22 ...in this country, poverty will linger, a lot of people will be sitting under the poverty line. We will try and get out the poverty ditch through our policies; it will not work with a good investment. I am very happy and one thing which I am really happy with the DCC about is Fiu hydro and Tina Hydro. The reason is because then and then only if you create energy in a society and that energy is cheap to operate business. They will come to operate business here. The fusil fuel drops because of the global issues in the global market but it will go up, it can't be long here. We have put the price on it internally with the oil price right under our pricing policy and rules, but I am happy that those projects will go forward and I just want to see the completion of those projects.

Mr Speaker by then it will up what they called economic zone corridor between Bina harbour and Auki. That is why government wants to work hard on it to open the corridors, the economic corridors. We will open one or two corridors from Tina to Lambi, but Doma is the best place to do it. I attended this South Corporation and I will bring one cabinet paper for the Minister for Foreign Affairs. A lot of countries around the world wants to come to Solomon Islands in terms of tourism but in terms of the rules of diplomacy, the minister will work on it quickly. I have the trust in the minister which his vast experience in diplomacy, it will work on and fostering. I hope after DCC has gone or within the reign of DCC in this twelve months, investors will have an optimistic view and interest to this country. I hope that my hope is a hope that I think will work.

Let me finally thank my constituency of East Honiara for voting me the second time to Parliament and the trust they have on me. I really thank all of you, thank you very much and I hope and that you will work with me and I work with you in this next four years, and I do thank you very much. Thank you Prime Minister, Speaker and I hope that after this budget we will work collaborate to enhance the goals and the objective of any government in the country. With those I resume my seat and I support this motion.

\

Hon JOHN MOFFAT FUGUI: Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me an opportunity to join my colleagues to contribute ...5.27...to this *Sine Die* motion. The Prime Minister had moved

that at the adjournment of Parliament on Wednesday 28th April, 2015, the present meeting shall be concluded and parliament shall then stand adjourned Sine Die.

Traditionally, the Sine Die motion is understood or understood as a motion made without future date for reconvening, it is therefore a final motion. In this parliament, we have made it a motion to express our gratitude to our government and people for work done and also to thank friends and supporters as national leaders. So as a present leader of this nation this is exactly what I intend to do.

I wish to thank the Speaker and congratulate the new Clerk of Parliament, salute the deputy clerk and offer gratitude to the staff of parliament and all of us who have made this House a lively community. With our new team it is our hope that we as the new management remain in touch with Members of parliament and officials alike maintain a high level of creativity as it is one of the things missed out from the former administration or management and keep our silence if need be to listen to the needs and suggestions from our officials and people.

Also allow me to thank the community leaders and people in our settlements in Central Honiara, our people in the offices and those who lived in the Suburbs of this constituency. I also take this opportunity to thank those who have given us power but lived outside of Central Honiara constituency. Allow me to say that although the government budget has been passed it will take some time before warrants are signed to allow spending of government money. Hence, I wish to encourage our people to bear with us as we attempt to see to all these things, I must not also forget to thank my family for holding us together even political stuff arise. At this point I also wish to touch on the speech from the Throne, talk a little bit on the budget and then I conclude.

As I have mentioned in my response to the speech from the Throne, whatever the government rules the country, maintain national unity is an important agenda. In his speech, his Excellency references this by emphasising that we are all one people and we belong to one nation. He also mentioned the need to forge political stability and sustaining integrity of leadership at the national level, he said that this is good for good governance. Hence, my reading of that sentiment is that, if we address development in ways that fulfil most of our people's need and desires and in ways that empowered them and give them

hope for the future then we will have made a home run on national unity. This can be achieved when we have policies that get the support of both sides of the House, the present DCC government policies are the closest we can get to these achievements. On that point, we are most optimistic.

In view of land, the experiences of our people are quite instructive and I am one of those who believe that our people would be willing to allow their lands for development. If our people fully understand and appreciate what the government tries to do then they can allow their lands. We should not forget that we were once colonised people and in terms of land, indigenous peoples have had painful experiences with governments both colonial and otherwise. Governments has used the law of adverse possession in many of their land dealings and this has thought our people to jealously hold onto their lands, in Honiara semblances of this can still be seen. So to say that our people have... 5.32:locked up their land is to State what is apparently obvious -people do hold on to their lands because of previous bad experiences. And from what the people had learn from experiences from other countries. When a through the long arms of the law numerous indigenous people especially for us in the Solomon- the Guadalcanal people and tribes had been deprived of their major means of survivability and livelihood.

Mr Speaker Sir, this been the case I will touch a bit on what I have said yesterday in terms of family tree approach. The indigenous framework of family tree approach appears to be an alternative approach. Mr Speaker Sir, most rural development efforts in the country has been constrained by tribal land disputes, that is obvious. Most of these disputes are often a primest on input or disputable knowledge of traditional custom handed down from generation to generation. And most of these knowledge takes the form of orality- means the message is passed verbally because it's not written.

Honourable Speaker Sir, but most of these tribal land disputes maybe reduce by clarification and recording of the indigenous knowledge. Honourable Speaker Sir, the family tree approach holds the potential as one of their approaches not the only one, but one of the many holds the potential to address land dispute issues in a smooth way. The family tree approach traced where people originate from through genealogies, their history of

arrival and other physical evidences that indicate land ownerships such as shrines and property.

In the family tree approach Mr Speaker Sir, the intention here is that this information be formerly documented. Honourable Speaker Sir, once all family trees are recognised and are in place, there would be little room for false claimants of land. It's only then the registration can be easier and rural developments can take place. But that's not as smooth as it sounds. There are so many other things that will come and compete or interfere with this and I don't have time to go into it Mr Speaker but I think you get the point. Not new but it is important to emphasise it.

Still on land but closer to home, I want to take this opportunity to thank the former Minister of Lands for allocating land for the victims of the 2014 April Flash flood. I think one thing he is doing good, the other things I am not too sure, but if there's any flag for him to wave or he could wave, it is this 2014 flash flood- land that he gave in April Valley.

I am ever hopeful and optimistic that the present Minister; even a powerful one, powerful version of the Minister of Lands completes the job and transfer titles to those victims. The minister can even progress further and provide land for those who live near the disaster area but have yet to be allocated plots of land so we can avert future disasters.

During the budget debate I mentioned that for the 2015 budget 75 percent of budget for Parliament is for Members of Parliament Entitlements. The balance of the budget that is 29 percents is for the National Parliament Office administration plus the administration of the Opposition office and the Independent office. These two constitutionally mandated offices Mr Speaker Sir, need to be properly financed and you heard it, but we do it a little bit better and what you have seen before. We need to see them function effectively to ensure good governance in the country. On that vein, I wish to made mention of the need to improve our media television set up in order, I move to the media in Parliament, in order to effectively televise Parliament proceedings to our people. At present no television is broadcasted or telecasted to our people especially in Honiara but also in other places too.

The present television system does not meet broadcasting requirements in terms of quality. That is why the present Parliamentary meeting is not televised. There is a need to have a proper effective television studio to televise Parliament as well as committee proceedings. Honourable Speaker, Parliament needs a fully automated system. Like in the

Environment they have automated weather stations in ministry of Environment, in here we need a fully automated system which is own network that will provide quality televising and webcasting. We need to have this budget before so that a technical report will be submitted in time before the 2016 budget bids, hopefully we will include it by next year.

A little bit on fisheries and a little bit on Trade Policy and a little bit on other things before I finish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Fisheries 5.37 and Marine Resources for successful passage of the Fisheries Management Bill, now an Act of Parliament in this House. But that is not surprising because the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources is ever hard working. We have done well.

Sir, the overall global marine resources today is valued at US\$24Trillion. That is a lot of money, so clearly once our fisheries are aligned properly as we have done with this Fisheries Management Bill, now an Act once signed by the Royal Ascent, we will benefit bountifully from our marine resources. In terms of the Solomon Islands Trade Policy Framework, in the same manner, I wish to congratulate our Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade for the successful debate on our Trade Policy Framework (TPF). Now that we have a trade policy framework in place, our trade relations will be properly ordered both internally and externally. The trade policy will surely dough tail our trade efforts to produce effective trade policies for the country. And I have mentioned to the Minister yesterday, once the trade policy framework is converted into a legislation, and a new Foreign Affairs Act is in place, the Ministry's work will then be greatly enhanced.

Honourable Speaker Sir, early this year, in my previous sine die motion presentation, I had discussed at length the need for second city for Solomon Islands. The way I see it is that we are getting close to putting some blue print for further negotiations and planning for this. It will take some time – that is for sure. But at least we have the concept in the works. Recently, when I read that China's skyline business council had visited us, I was ever encouraged. Reading the press report, Mr Tao, the Chairman of the Group said and I quote: "We are a group of private investors. We have established ourselves in Samoa, and we have business interests in the Fiji Islands". He then continued: "This is the best time to enter Solomon Islands for investment". He even said that: "Solomon Islands is a golden city for investment". I am not too sure if I am reading into this too much. But when you refer to

Solomon Islands as a golden city, and what I am asking for is less than Solomon Islands being a golden city.

Mr Speaker Sir, I also mentioned earlier that if there is a country who could build cities, China would come first on globalness of such super economic powers. So we should take time to work on that. But let us not forget that we are progressing. Ideas first before we put them into policies and implementation afterwards. But the ideas are important. The whole world is built on ideas.

As I have mentioned earlier, the longer I ponder on this second city, the more convince I become. I will stop asking questions like those by the Member for Aoke/Langalanga: "Am I okay or Am I not okay?" I think I am okay.

A second city for Solomon Islands would address the issue of urban drift and rurality together. That is a problem for us, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Member for West Honiara. You do not breathe it. I breathe it every single day so I do not see it as one apart from the other – I see them one and together. That is why this idea about cities is one of those things if we do it or if we will ever do, we will be alright. And taken in the context of Solomon Islands, the idea was of a second city is ever attractive – I think it is relevant as well.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your patient. Let us build on this good relationship through effective meetings as we have now. I wish all well in your next task to face – the implementation of the 2015 Budget. With those remarks, I support....5.42 the motion and I resume my seat.

Hon DAVID TOME (*Mbaegu/Asifola*): I rise to stand on behalf of the people of Baegu-Asifola to be part of this parliamentary debate and support the motion that was moved by the Honourable Prime Minister, "That at the adjournment of Parliament on Wednesday 29 April 2015, the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall then stand adjourned sine-die." On that note I would like to thank the Prime Minister in providing an avenue for us Members of Parliament to air out some of our thoughts to reinforce and remind the government on issues. I thank you and your staff for what you have put in this first meeting because your efforts are tremendous. I would also like to make mention of a

special thanks to the finance minister for the bold and difficult decisions which he made to bring this 2015 Appropriation Bill to Parliament. I thank him and his staff.

I would also like to make mention of a special thanks to the minister of fisheries and marine resources for bringing an important bill to Parliament. I think it is very timely because this bill is very overdue. I support this bill and I hope my people are going to benefit from it.

The passage of these bills not only reflects how best we are but it shows our commitment to our people to run this country. When I say commitment it means that we must be all committed leaders to what we have passed on this floor of Parliament.

I have noticed that most of these new Members of Parliament have a lot of commitment in them and I am sure they can perform their duties with competence and diligence on the task they have as ministers of the crown. So I welcome them to the family of Solomon Islands political leaders. Special thanks goes to our only female Member of Parliament, the MP for Temotu Vattu who is not present now. I want to welcome her as well [5.47](#) in the arena of political leadership in Solomon Islands. We are all committed to this parliament and to our respective constituencies and to the people of this nation. As a member of the Independent Group, I will always commit myself to this parliament and to the people of Baegu/Asifola and to this nation and the law of the land.

To the Opposition Group, I have noted that the Leader is very committed in performing as a national watch over the executive. In addition, I can see he is also very concerned about developments happening in Isabel province. DCC government must adhere to the comments raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

As a government, we must be committed to our roles. It must be committed on the face of limited resources that we have. We must continue to challenge ourselves in terms of resources we think we have. Do we really have enough resources to run this country? If the answer is affirmative, then governance and management maybe a problem; hence we must change course and look for a better future.

Upon these lines, I support the 2015 Appropriation Bill to be the peoples' budget and I salute the government for that. In terms of the policy, I am happy to notice that the DCC government policy clearly outlines the support for rural development, and importantly, the revitalisation of the failed economic institutions, such as DBSI and CEMA. I am concerned

about these areas because reflecting back on these two institutions, they contribute so much to our national economy and our rural people really participated well in it. I would urge the government to revisit the two institutions. It is important that we address them appropriately.

Having said that, I truly appreciate any policy of any government that supports the lives of the ordinary people. I am one of the members of this house that also wants to see all of these government policies driven into reality. This house has heard what the Member for North Malaita had stated. In short, he was referring to the budget, whether it is committed in delivery of what policies it stated. I believe and hope that the policies of the DCC government will do that and it better that we better not to continue to confuse our people with good policies on one hand and executing a different thing on the other hand. I say from my heart because I have experience that and I urge the Prime Minister to look into that. It will come a time where the tendency of temptation will come and you will make decision in that way. I hope that will not happen again.

In that, we must continuously remind ourselves of what the Member for Aoke/Langalanga said, and I quote 'even small, we care part of an international economy and therefore we must always be cautious of the world economy'. The Leader of Independent also confirmed, 'that this people's budget surely does have an international element inside'. The Minister of Finance also mentioned something along that line and also the Prime Minister also mentioned how we relate to outside partners, which is very important.

Allow me to comment on the agriculture sector. This is a very important sector to this nation...5:52...and anyone can argue with me. In comparison to the extractive industry such as mining for Bauxite, Nickel, and other minerals, Agriculture investments fair out quite well. I must say this to the honourable house so that we will think seriously about. For the extractive industry it can make millions of dollars but if not managed well we will suffer in the long term. Therefore, I will also support the idea of any agriculture prospects and developments. We can never be wrong; Agriculture is a worthwhile and friendly under taking. We do not need to teach our people to plant kumara, Taro, and other plants. They have the necessary skills to do farming. What we need now is a clear direction and advice together with appropriate financial support.

Our Cattle industry have just started, the minister of Agriculture for the last government has brought in some cattle from Vanuatu, we need to bring some more to enhance and to expand this industry. I hope that the DCC government will continue on with this important program. The support and the direction that our agriculture sector will take also depends on the resources and frame work we operate within this imperative that Agriculture Ministry be fully equipped with the required people, tools and resources to do the work.

The institutional strengthening perspective will surely enhance the work of our public servants and the fellow agriculturist. On the broader scale this also includes consideration for remuneration packages for public servants in general to harmonize the current cost of living.

I will now talk about the Fisheries Management bill, the passage of the bill is a mile stone to our economy, it will help us betterment managed our marine resources. In relation to the fisheries management Bill there are provisions in that Bill that caters for community's fisheries management plans, I would like to dwell on this in the manner which the people of Baegu/ Asifola will deal with it. In my constituency, just for information about the geographical location of my constituency; Baegu refers the people living inlands and Asifola refers to the people living on the coast including the artificial islands. This coastal region is the appropriate theatre for a community fisheries management plan to be very relevant. But me also add here that in the Lau region or the Asifola area, management of fishery resources is not a new concept, we have being practicing it for generations now and it is still evident until now but maybe in a different way. If you travel through the Lau lagoon, you cannot miss seeing the sticks that are standing in the reefs, this is what we call Oifafia asi...5-57 : I think the member for central Honiara will know because he's got one reef there. It is a means of fishery management; 'Oifafias' is an act of tabooing reefs for conservation purposes and for a particular reason. We make custom to that place to preserve that sea or to regenerate the marine resources. Most times it is for future harvesting and is the means which the reefs are allowed to regenerate and we have additional or continuous supply of marine resources. So my point here is simply that in the execution of such policies we must appreciate the customary application of such methods. We must understand that our people have been practicing this management programs for some times and their input into community fishery management plans is very vital. If the ministry of fisheries is very

serious and keen of executing anything along this line, just look to Baegu/Asifola. We want to be a meaningful partner in such government to prevent concept. By looking at things where things a major government programs throughout Solomon Islands is eminent and specialist specifically the projects on Malaita.

All those projects have the support of the member of Baegu Asifola, it is within the best interest of this country for the projects of such help to be focus on Malaita mainland. It is my dream Mr Speaker that Malaita will be able to absorb all people of this nation to come and work and live in Malaita. This project should be able to develop to an extend whereby it will foster economic prospects for this nation. These projects have been initiated by wisdom of the past government, even before I come into parliament. And I was part of the last government and as a government we also believe in these projects and of course we supported them accordingly. Today it is DCC government to move these further and do it for the people of Malaita and people of this nation. I will support this as long as I remain in the parliament, I will continue to support any Malaita Province especially development that will be close to Baegu Asifola.

Having saying that it would only be very prudent of me to mention two specific projects of interest for Baegu Asifola Constituency; I read through our policy and I notice Taeloa/Ata road. And of course I see under the TPA, and I believe this is a peace road and a road for prosperity, do not over look it. Another one is the wharf at Sulufou. The minister for infrastructure through the DCC government, these two projects are very critical for economic enhancement, basic services will improve and productivity will of course bear impact in the region. And the province and the nation as whole, sir I want to finish of here with the land reform. If the minister of land if you are here please listen; I want to see that this land reform program kicks of very quickly and I ask the government to put in the resources and technical people in. so that we move this land reform program.

With regards to the West Papua issue I didn't know much about the situation there. But what I call on now is for you to educate us with, so that they know what is going on there, so that they can also bring in their support...6.02:...West Papua, I said that so that the ordinary people of Solomon Islands must know it better. So I want the Minister of Foreign Affairs &

External Trade to take note of it and must teach our people about the real situation that is happening in West Papua.

Lastly, one of the groups that we need to consider their needs is the youths & Children. Appropriate engagement is needed when we talked about youth or young people in this nation. It is still a fact that we do have youthful population and this supposed to our strength in the future. The young people of this country will carry the hopes and aspirations of this nation forward and so it is only fitting that any government must have clear engagement policies with this important sector of our population. Hence, we must put in place the appropriate forums where the young people can engage accordingly and I would like to make mention of the national initiative to hold youth Parliaments. These are good initiatives and so I only hope that it could be systematically connected to the provincial youth parliaments. For it is my desire that youths must be heard and that their growing needs at this time of change must be realised fully, education and sport are the important national programs for youths.

Finally I want to say that we have left seven months to go for this year, the fiscal year will come to an end by then. Due it is short; I will leave it to the capable hands of the Prime Minister to do it. I also want to thank the member colleagues and the staff of Parliament for the work, especially for our staff at the accounts department. Also we must be united in trying to achieve our goals; we must work together under the guidance of God. With this remarks, I join the Prime Minister that at the adjournment of the Parliament today, the present meeting shall concluded and parliament will stand Sine die, with that I support the motion and resume my seat.

Hon PETER SHANEL AGOAVAKA (*Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services*): First of all I want to thank the Prime Minister for moving this traditional motion of *Sine Die*. I want to start off by thanking the Governor General for the speech from the Throne... 6.07...Actually his Speech from the Throne is really outlining the intent of government and what the government wants to do then we go into recession Sir, and then we work on the Appropriation Bill and the Budget Bills the ministries were come in.

Sir, I am with this budget were been passed its a ninth budget that I am sitting down and debating Sir, it should be ten but one of them is I am missed out of it because I was somewhere else Sir.

The ninth budget is a historical budget and I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and Treasury in brining this budget. One thing the Minister of Finance is really emphasise on Sir, is that the budget must aligned within the government's policies, I think this is the main theme of the budget Sir, of the ninth budget that I have gone through and this one is really strike me that it's a good budget because we not only put our policy statements, in putting inside the web document but we also put money in carrying out our policy statements. So that is why I like the budget where the Member of Parliament for Marovo and the Minister for Finance have brought into Parliament Sir.

Sir, I would like to touch a little bit in the work of Police, after we have passed this budget the police officers where very happy because this budget will help them to do their work. But firstly I would like to go back to one of the issue where our police officers try their best to submit to the successive governments since the 2000 but no government had been adhering to them. Only the DCCG is recognizing them so we will paying their boarder claim Sir and I am very happy and I inform the police officers and former police officers and correctional services that you will receive your payment because we're the government of the day recognizing and this issue have to come a rest so that you will happy and also the government is happy so that we continue with this work Sir.

Sir, as you know we only have two patrol boats. The Vanuatu government have requested to use the Patrol Boat '*Auki*' for one more month so we have with the consent of the Prime Minister agreed to allow our neighbour the government of Vanuatu and its people to use our Patrol boat for deployment in Vanuatu Sir. So that is our contribution to this cyclone Pam that has just going past.

I would like to go back on PAC, I think the Chairman have alluded that the Solomon Islands Ports Authority they were not attending the PAC meeting and the Deputy Prime Minister and I were inside the PAC the same thing were happened that some people did not come and attending the PAC. And Sir, this is where Parliament is very important that we should make the rules so that the SOE's must attend the SOE's where under the Government and most of them under the Minister of Finance others under the Ministry of Infrastructure

Development and various ministries, ministry of Commerce. So the SOE's have to stand answerable when PAC invites them for hearing or answer in their institutions.

I would like to touch a little bit the last 2013 Sir, we passed the Family Protection Bill. I think there's a question about that there is no budget for it for supporting that work. I must say here in floor of Parliament there's budget under my ministry and in Royal Police in supporting the work of Family Protection Bill and there is a office at Rove Sir, where if you have husband and wife were fight and wife would like to complain of his husband, she can go down to Rove and she can raise her complain and the police will take on from there and support budget come through ministry as well as the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. So that is one thing I would like to touch on.

Sir, the other Bills that we would like to do is the witnesses protection Act, as you know Sir, earlier this year there's a number of incidents that happens the shooting at Bike Island, deat in Binu...6.12... and the murder at Kaibia. There are a couple of deaths recently. The police are on top of this work, and it is very difficult for us to protect the witnesses. So the Witness Protection Bill is very important. If we do not protect the witnesses, people can easily pay them off, confuse and threaten them. It is a Bill that I would like to see comes to Parliament so that we can pass to protect police witnesses. We expect a lot from the police and they work day and night to ensure that law and order in our country is maintained. And not only that, while you are sleeping, we must also make sure of the safety of our asset is ensured. So police work is tough and people always complain about them as well. This budget will certainly help us to carry out our work and duties. It will also help us ensure that our border with Bougainville and Solomon Islands is maintained. This budget will help us to build our relationship with Interpol and other security agencies throughout the world. It will also shape how community policing will come about – what kind of community we will have in our country. It will start off the limited re-armament of the police. We have a budget to buy limited arms under our development budget to assist our police. The police are always in danger when they attend to crimes or crime scenes. They are always subjected to pressure from the public and from aggressive people. So they have to protect themselves and those that need protection. The limited re-armament program will start because the budget was already passed.

Sir, I think we have talked about our youths. Our youths need to be properly looked and I agree with the Member for Baegu/Asifola. We will build separate prisons for young youths, female and mentally ill offenders in our country. That is something that we would like to see happen.

We have another problem, now we have mobile phones. It is always to track the work of police which makes it easy for people to escape from the police. We want to make a regulation which will require everyone that buys a SIM Card to have it registered. We must make a requirement so that when you go and buy a SIM Card from Bemobile or Telekom, your names and address must be recorded. We must make this regulation, not only will assist our work and helps to identify the owner of a SIM Card. At the moment we do have that and we cannot even trace phone calls by people committing a crime. It is an important piece of legislation that we will bring to Parliament, so that it will help the police to carry out their roles. You will not like this, but it is important....6.17 ...to help us govern our country. Sir, my contribution will be short.

I would like to thank the minister of fisheries for bringing this bill to parliament. But I would also like to thank previous ministers of fisheries because you have laid the foundation. The Member of Parliament for North Malaita was once a minister there and also the Member of Parliament for East Makira. So successive governments have work on this before the present government presented it.

The people of Guadalcanal are often complaining about squatting. This session in parliament we have two sessions to look on land reform a key policy statement of this government is land reform.

The passage of the Solomon Islands trade policy framework; I would like to thank the minister of foreign affairs for bringing this to parliament. I would also like to thank previous ministers of foreign affairs who have worked hard on this.

Sir, we have received lots of reports coming to parliament but I would like to say that I think it is important for us to move a motion so that we go through the Committee of Supply to look at those documents and then we make comments and ask questions and look on recommendations. This is very important in how we run the government as legislatures and

as executives in our country. I would like to suggest that any report that is before the house presenters must move the motions so that we can go through the committee of supply. This will help us understand more the reports.

In our bilateral relationship support Australia and New Zealand on their national days but we Solomon Islands seems to ethnicity rather than national and we do not speak as Solomon Islanders. It is important for us to work together as a country rather than little tinny countries in Solomon Islands. The point is that we have to be nationalists. Earlier this year we have two visits by two tourist boats and I think the minister of tourism is doing well. The problem is that the sun is really hot and there are not shades at the wharf and the site is really dirty. So, it is not a really welcome site but I know the minister of tourism is really working hard on trying to ensure there is shady area or a hut for for tourists to cool down and have some soft drinks and some entertainments such as...6.22...tamure and bamboo dance just to welcome them so that they know that this is the Happy Isles and not the dirty isles. We also had the flagship from Taiwan this year and they did some performance at Lawson Tama. Taiwan is a small nation but they have a huge warship. We need to pull our socks up and do what Taiwan is doing. We need to work hard so that we have a patrol boat, a really good one.

ANZC day took place last Saturday where we remember those that fought during the battle on Guadalcanal; the Australians, New Zealanders and our allies that defend our county from the imperialism of Japan. It was a moving dawn service because we remember those that sacrifice their lives for the enjoyment and the peace that we enjoy today. It is important that we must always remember this day that people sacrifice their lives. I was amazed at the number of deaths during the battle. Millions of people sacrificed their lives to save us and now that we have peace.

In terms of constituency, Central Guadalcanal continues to assist the government in its programs. We have the mining, Tina Hydro, the international Airport, RIPEL, Loggings and the Palm Oil. So Central Guadalcanal has a fair contribution to our economy. I hope that other constituencies will do the same in terms of assisting our economy. North- East Guadalcanal must do the same.

Laughter

Hon Peter Shanel Agovaka: I would like to say this to my people that the budget had passed. I will visit you. The committee will come to you. Do not call. I am here in Honiara and you can come and see me so that we can talk about our projects for 2015. This is my third terms and my people really support me because I support them. It is reciprocal. When they support you, you have to do the same.

Finally, I want to thank every minister and Members of Parliament who contributed to the Motion of Sine Die moved by the Prime Minister. There were lots of good advices we heard from the other side of the house and also this side of the house. I think the government is listening. The Prime Minister is a great listener. The minister also listened to the things you said because they are important to the way we run the government because after all we all represent Solomon Islands.

Thank you so much Mr Speaker for your tolerance and hard work in chairing the meeting and the tireless work. I also thank the Deputy Speaker. I would also like to thank the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the secretariat staff. I would also like to thank the accounts officers, the kitchen staff for providing food for us...6.27... the securities and the cleaners in the parliament. With this few remarks I thank you and I beg to support the motion.

Dr CULWICK TOGAMANA (*Maringel/Kokota*): Mr Speaker Sir, Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this very important motion moved by the honourable Prime Minister. Let me thank the honourable Prime Minister for tabling this motion before the honourable house and also urge honourable members to debate freely and constructively. It is most encouraging to note that the honourable Prime Minister promised to undertake pertinent issues that are raised on the floor of the honourable chamber. I do sincerely believe whilst most of us more often move in and out of this honourable chamber, it is becoming too apparent that your good self and the honourable Prime Minister remained resolute, the formidable display of resistance of the highest degree to the call of nature during each session. Prime Minister your position is very secure and I do not aspire to become a PM. Thank you Speaker for taking control of this business of the house.

Let me join honourable members who have spoken before me in thanking the governor general for his insightful wisdom which we are reminded of our noble duty as national legislators, and that of our national motto; to lead is to serve during the traditional speech from the throne. There is a clear directive from his excellence for national leaders to act responsibly by formulating clear policy and guidelines that will lead our people and the country to peace, tranquillity and prosperity, since God has endowed our Islands with rich land and sea resources. His Excellence firmly believe if good policies are implemented then our people will be empowered to engage in productive activities and absorb in gainful employment, for this reason I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister and the DCC government for the sizable budgetary allocation in the 2015 appropriation Bill towards our population in rural communities. We should create enabling environment and empowering our people to fully engage in productive activities which will improve their livelihoods.

I'm also one of the new comers to this honourable house and with your indulgence, let me briefly register a few concerns I have on the Appropriation bill 2015. I am appreciative of the fact that it is not possible to fund each and every roads, bridges, wharfs, airstrip, etc. from under the sun. And therefore limited government funds needs to be prioritized for national projects with tangible outcomes as noted in the appropriation Bill 2015, however, I fully concur with the statement made earlier by my colleague, the honourable member for Hograno/Kia/Havulei and leader of the opposition, about the insufficient or no funds allocated to assist rural farmers to engage effectively in coffee and Kava production. There is a growing demand for Isabel Kava in Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, last week I was contacted by the General Manger of Varevao Holdings limited seeking advice where Kava samples can be send for analyses to determine their Lurton contain, a requirement for entry to the US market, although Kava products and export in our countries relatively small in comparison to Vanuatu and Fiji; it has contributed positively to our foreign exchange earnings at present and will be for many years to come. It is justifiable to allocate funds in future to export products on coffee and Kava products especially in Satan Isabel, which would be in line with the DCC policy to establish a broad base economic development for this country.

I need not mention that the debilitating status of road infrastructure in Isabel. In 37 years of gaining independence not a single bridge build to approve engineering design and standard is ever constructed for crossing of rivers and streams in Isabel.

I ...6.32 ...have continued to lament over the poor state of infrastructure in Isabel, which is much semi in other provinces. Had it not been for the very bold call by the honourable prime minister for change on the floor of this honourable chamber when debating on the trade policy framework? I applaud the honourable prime minister for his strong remarks that we have the political will to make things happen and change we must because of people placed on us. There hopes and aspirations to create a better future for present and future generations. The timely tabling of the fisheries management bill 2015 and the trade policy frame work to this honorable house is a step in the right direction to instituting change and prove as a country so desperately need and the DCC government should be commended.

Sir, I am equally concern with the general lack of capacity to prevent invasive animals and pests from entering our borders. And if they do the lack of adequate quarantine measures to eradicate or prevent further spread of pests. A classical example of pests I am referring to are the Asian bee which affects local bee hives and the giant African snail, that is capable of consuming anything that is green. For in pests have the potential to impact primary production especially in the agricultural sector. And finding integrated measures of pest control or eradication requires proper scientific research involving both field trials and laboratory test. On this regards, the ministry of agriculture must establish a fully fledge research station of equal or even better than Dodo Creek research station we had before the ethnic tension. It must be and the alternative would be most vulnerable and susceptible state where we are in at present. In terms of dealing with pest and providing useful assistance to rural communities in the agricultural sector.

The honourable minister for agriculture did mention about stepping up bio security and calls on the honourable house that bio security is every bodies business. I am glad that an extreme machine will be acquired to screen for prohibited items, including unwanted guests at the arrival terminal of the Henderson Airport. Bio security should not be confined or the burden of responsibility place on the x-tray machine only. I would prefer that we establish bio security authority which is a commercial statutory entity through act of parliament. With much broader role to protect our agricultural sector, from the introduction and spread

of animal and plant pests and diseases. Facilitate access to viable agro export markets and ensure compliance of our agro exports to overseas markets. What it means is that the inspection for certification and approval of export packing facility by bio security authority with the team of veterinary and anthermology and plant pathologist is a prerequisite for obtaining an export license.

Now let me turn my attention to the general lack of fully fledged scientific laboratory service in our country. We need a fully equip lab capable of performing an array of analysis including organics to address the inappropriate application of pesticides on vegetables in the agriculture sector. Range of contamination in soil, water and air, what quality, valuable metals from geological samples and for compliance in the manufacturing industry.

For a start we have the environmental health laboratory at Kukum that can perform most of these tasks. However the lab is under resource in terms of human and financially. We have just passed the Fisheries Management Bill 2015, and compliance aspect of the bill requires fish quality auditors to obtain samples for analysis and inspection of processing facilities. It is imperative that we need to build local capacity to perform a range of chemical analysis through establishment of a proper scientific laboratory. And yes I believe the bold statement made by the honourable prime minister that we have the political will to make this happen. Finally allow me to briefly mention a successful community involvement with known governmental organization in the area of conservation of marine endangered total species from my constituency...6.37...this is not Arnavon Island but at Haivo, a place that have a coastline that stretch more than 5km which is unique and that is has two nesting sessions for both Hawksbill and Leatherback turtle in a year. The conservation at Haivo is an initiative of the Nature Conservancy and involves the cooperation of 11 villages from Gao & Maringe districts and it only started in October of year 2013.

But more than a thousand hatchlings have been released into the sea with tagging and monitoring of animals that come ashore for nesting. The Nature Conservancy is now invited to help four additional communities in the country to create their own turtle conservation sites following the successful work at Haivo. The rangers monitoring the coastline at Haivo are mostly reformed porches and turtle eaters from among 11 villages involved in the conservation.

I thought of mentioning this type of activity to inform Honourable members that many useful activities such as this are happening in our rural communities in collaboration with NGOs. So that increase in rural development fund in this year's budget could provide a much financial relief and assistance to worthy course such as conservation of marine and terrestrial resources.

In conclusion, allow me on behalf my good people of Maringe & Kokota to thank the Honourable Minister of Education and Finance for the financial commitment in this year's budget towards the construction of senior secondary school at Garanga. It is hoped that on completion of that school, space constrain at form six to form seven will be addressed and so reduced the numbers of droppers experience nationwide at this level. Let me congratulate the Speaker, the deputy speaker, Clerk to Parliament and the staff for providing leadership in the conduct of business on the floor of this Honourable House. With these remarks, I support the motion and resume my seat.

Mr MOSES GARU (*West Guadalcanal*): Thank you for this opportunity to also add my voice on behalf of my people of West Guadalcanal in support of the motion of *Sine Die* moved by the Prime Minister. As alluded by the other speakers, we did well not only in fulfilling our constitutional mandate to dispose of 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015. But we have also committed ourselves to pass this very important Fisheries Management Bill 2015 to guide, monitor, control conservation, management, development and sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources within and beyond our waters. Let me also join the others to thank the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for tabling this very important bill which has now become an Act to help our people and our country at large.

I also resolved to thank the UNDP for their support to parliament in building the capacity of parliament to improve quality service to all of us, members of parliament, the public, the communities and the people throughout the Solomon Islands. On that note, I also want to thank the Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee for moving the motion to say thank you to them for their support.

Indeed we must give credit to acknowledge all our donor partners and agencies that have continuously supported the growth and the development of our key institutions, our people

and our country. The Trade Investment Policy framework was also a very important tool for our country and people initiating the course and direction for our trade and investment and so for that, I want to thank the minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade for bringing this important policy framework to parliament which is purposely to enhance trade investment for our country.

At the outset, let me **6.42** take this chance also to congratulate His Excellency the Governor General for the delivery of his Speech from the Throne which is delivered on the 24th March 2015. As I have said, if we dwelt to commence our business in this meeting with the Speech from the Throne and I like to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for the invitation.

Sir, the invitation for the Governor General to address Parliament and Nation is very, very significant, not only because it is British tradition to open Parliament session neither in its new Parliament nor for the only purpose of sharing the government policy directions, the strategy of destiny for our people in the next four years.

Mr Speaker, the Head of State is our symbol of national unity the unity of Solomon Islands. Sir, I was listening to the Minister of National Unity and Reconciliation in his contribution when debating the budget. He also took time to acknowledge the Governor General for his speech from the Throne where he is strongly emphasise the importance of National Unity as the minister responsible for National Unity and Reconciliation Peace and neither cannot agree more.

We must continue to work hard, continue to reform and to transform our people to embrace national unity because like the Minister have said, we are already neither divided nation Sir, divided by sea and thousands of islands as well as our various cultural and social differences. Sir, I wish to thank the missionaries are protectorate in colonial masters, through sacrifices and plant the seed of national unity and peace to our shores which we continue to enjoy today Mr Speaker.

It is this regard Sir, let me also take this opportunity to thank the past Governor Generals, Prime Ministers and Governments for their effort in building national unity and peace since we gaining of our independence in 2978 all of us together must out continue to do this to sustain lasting stability in its peace to our shore. Which yes, we have come

through some rough times where very national unity was is at state and we have all managed to come out of it.

May I call on His Excellency the Governor General and Honourable Prime Minister to visit and continue to advocate for the national unity in all 50 constituencies of Solomon Islands. I would like to ask the Government Sir, to avail more funds to His Excellency the Governor General to visit and continue advocate for national unity in all 50 constituencies in the next four years especially those are yet to be visited including West Makira constituency.

I would also like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for the honour and privilege accorded to this parliament through his invitation for His Excellency's address from the Throne. On the budget, I have a very brief observation to make we have all passed the budget now we are challenge to work on our plans for the implementation of budget, programs prioty and activities.

I will less dwell on the fundamentals of this budget but rather to share some general observation especially sectors where they feel need some resurrection in emphasis by way of policy and budget priority for this coming years 2016 to 2018.

Sir, one of the key features in our national budget most notably in the development of our policy strategy is that we have fail to align approaches will target actual fiscal miserable how to target.

My good Leader of the Opposition had dwell on this in his presentation on his assessments over the games to be drive from **6.47** our budget should be measurable both in quality and quantity. This is to allow us to measure our anticipated output. We cannot continue to provide budgets for general intentions that we cannot measure and quantify real impacts and benefits to our people and nation. We have to have development targets and achievement indicators. When we talk about indicators, most of us most of the time will talk in ratios. I do not like ratio. Just start talking about how many clinics, classrooms, new schools, water supplies, roads and the list goes on. What do we actually plan to do under this budget?

Mr Speaker, allow me to briefly touch on the agriculture sector. Agriculture as alluded to by previous speakers is the backbone of our livelihood. Some 80percent of our population depend on agriculture for food and income. Our major export commodities currently comprise cocoa, copra, oil palm, coffee and kava. Copra, cocoa and oil palm will

continue to contribute significantly to our economy for years and years to come, both in good and bad times because its production base is deeply rooted in our rural communities and by our people.

Sir, current productions come from old age plantations and are fast declining year by year. Our coconut plantations are over 50 years old. For our cocoa, large operations are over 30 years of age. Further need for replanting is obvious, if we are to sustain and improve production of these two important commodities. This is an urgent matter because if we ignore this, what this means is that our rural people who are dependent on these two commodities will be getting poorer and poorer each year. Historic and export data indicates that we are not achieving our full production potential. In the 1970s and 1980s, Solomon Islands export more copra than what is exported now. This is the same for cocoa as very replanting is done in the last 15 to 20 years.

In terms of export prices, we are seeing fluctuating prices. Export revenue may see increases in the last 10 years. This only indicates improved world market prices, not increased production. In real terms, we are actually losing as our full potential has not been fully realised to maximise foreign monetary returns.

Sir, Solomon Islands has been exporting dry cocoa in the last 56 years. And indeed we are the only country in the region and throughout the coconut world to still be exporting dry copra. This is very true. Everyone else has gone the path down streaming into virgin coconut and copra oil production. If you want to increase our export return and similarly increase local copra and cocoa prices for our local rural farmers, we have to start down streaming now. This is not in the budget for this year. It is not reflected in this year's budget under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. But let me urge my good Minister for Agriculture and the Government to be serious about where we want to place these two very important agriculture commodities in the next five to 10 years. Let us turn Solomon Islands into a coconut industry hub. I want to see that each constituency is allocated the target provision of virgin coconut and copra mills in the next budget of 2016. 6.52 This is the kind of budget I have alluded to so that at the end of the day we can actually know the return on our investment.

My constituency at this point in time has a total of nine VCO mills and one copra crushing mill, making us one of the growing produces of coconut oil in the country. This is

made possible by our very own local private rural entrepreneurs, our constituency development funds and support from the European Union through the South Pacific Commission. Still this is inadequate to reliably serve our families but has brought about vast improvement to the lives of our people in the rural villages in our constituency. We will strive under this budget to establish a few more through this year's budget.

On the fisheries sector, I am encouraged by the assurance of the government to see that the long standing plans and investments for the onshore fish processing developments at Malaita, Guadalcanal, Western and Isabel provinces are given top priority for their eventual development in the next four years. I know the hardships faced by successive governments are still there and these must be tackled head on. We must continue to support onshore fisheries development in the fisheries sector. This sector has a lot of potential to improve economic gain for our country, something that can boost very short economic turnaround.

The issue of land dispute and other land obligation is obvious and I would like to join the chorus with my other colleagues who have made the same call for our resources owners to settle their differences amicably to allow these developments to start.

On this note, I would like to submit to the government through the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that we in West Guadalcanal do not have dispute on land. We are inviting investments to come to our shores because we have land readily available for fisheries on onshore development. This includes agriculture, ship building, slipway or and related ship utilities including tourism development so land is available.

We have idle perpetual land currently held by local business holdings from Lavuro to Nughu coconut plantations and also a former land purchase cooperative on Variana which comprise of some 4thousand hectors of land. So we are inviting any development to come. It is the DCC Government that secure investment for our people in these sectors. If Suava, Bina, Doma continue to face ongoing problems then please come to West Guadalcanal. I am making this appeal on behalf of my chiefs, leaders and people of West Guadalcanal constituency.

On telecommunications, I urge the government to continue to negotiate to expand mobile telephone services throughout the country. Currently, we only have two mobile

operators in the country and there has not been much competition between these two service providers, hence renders poorly as far as rural mobile telephone services is concerned. The Government must make sure these important service providers 6.57 improve on their rural service obligation. If you travel to the west side of Guadalcanal, your mobile will not function properly as soon as you reach Bonege. When you get to Kohimarama you can find some signals there but when you reach Selwyn college, you will not catch any signals. There is only a spot in Lambi that you can get the signal, then only in Tina will get some signal. This is not very good. This is not good for our people in the country, in the last four years we only have only two mobile towers established by Telecom, although more than fifty application came from our Resource owners allowing their land for mobile service development. As my Minister for Telecommunication and Aviation, through our drive these two providers can improve on their community service obligations in the next four years. If the Minister can assist that will be good.

My people can pay for this services sir, around 80percent of my people have mobiles, and they only used it to play games and music. The question of affordability in terms of viability and affordability for our providers is not an excuse. We have a good economic backgrounds and it is just a matter of priority, than economic that has suffocated us.

On the infrastructure sector, I am also encouraged to note the increased allocation in this year's budget for road maintenance and development. We must continue to maintain existing roads to worthy conditions for the safety of our people and service providers. A lot of accidents happen because

7:02

Mr Moses Garu:We should the targets starting in this 10th Parliament. I want to see that in the next 30 years that road is built around every island in our country. I want to call on the government to revisit the National Infrastructure Investment Plan developed by the previous government. All these plans are there. The Leader of Opposition also talked about this in his presentation. We need to have approved standards for the quality and safety of our roads.

I would like to talk about the Naro-Lambi road on West Guadalcanal. It urgently needs repair. If you look in yesterday's Solomon Star, there is a call from my chiefs to the

government to quickly reconnect the bridge at Bora in Lambi that was destroyed by flood during the cyclone Pam.

I am happy that the efforts by the past government with the assistance from our donor partners have seen part of this road has been tar sealed up to Tambea in Visale. The remaining state of road from Visale to Lambi still needs to be improved to the same standard. I am pleased that this government will ensure to complete this road commencing this year as reflected under this budget. I also hope that in the coming we will extend the road down to Tangarare and Marasa in the South Guadalcanal. It is not hard because there are about five or six logging companies already there. It is just a matter of connecting these roads.

In his contribution to the debate of the 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015, the Deputy Prime Minister used the term 'energy poverty' to describe the state of our energy need and demand, especially in province and rural communities. I want to subscribe to that. We have big investments to deal with in Auki, Tina and Savo. But let us not believe immediately by these commercial undertakings to lose of the need to promote and develop our rural energy potentials in other provinces and communities. It is high time that we place equal priority towards developing mini hydro project developments. Let us set a target to establish; for example, ten mini hydro projects each year so that in ten years time the term 'energy poverty' become irrelevant.

As I always say, we cannot move forward to develop our communities and resources without these fundamentals. Of course land is equally important and I am glad that this government is taking very serious plans to reform this sector. We need an enabling environment to support infrastructure to attract investment and development. We need peace, stability, law and order and we need equal enthusiasm from all stakeholders to work together hand in hand.

In conclusion, let me thank the Prime Minister for moving this motion and also the Minister of Finance, permanent secretaries and officials, the ministry of Development and planning and staff for ably putting together the budget for parliament. I thank the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and his team for scrutinising the budget. I thank all ministers for their insight to the budget, which help us this side of the house 7.07 To understand your respective plans and keepers activities this year, lastly but not least allow

me to thank my good people for West Guadalcanal; I want to thank them for continual support and their prayer. I know that everyone we are all anxious but please I will continue to ask for your understanding to work with your community leaders and your committees in a coordinate manner and bring forward your priorities. My appeal is that you can continue to work together with our leaders, committee members to address the common goals of our communities and people. I wish you to assure you all my very good people, my very strong desire to see some changes that happen in this next four years. And for a change to happen we must face change ourselves because if you do not change our values and conduct and attitudes. If you do not change our mindset of personal gain to change it with common good, common welfare goals, then there will no change will take place. Let me thank you for your patients and tolerance throughout this week long sitting in the conduct of businesses of this chamber. Also to your deputy for his enthusiasm and passion when taking the chair, to the clerk, deputy clerk, important secretariat and officials of parliament. Thank you all for your support rendered during the course of this meeting. Lastly I would like to thank all my colleague members of parliament for your commitment dedication to all deliberation of parliament and lastly for your friendship. With these remarks I support the motion.

Hon BODO DETTKE (*Minister for Forestry & Research*): Firstly allow me to commend the honourable Prime Minister for his leadership so far as well as his courage and that of the DCC government for that matter in moving this motion of Sine Die. At the early stages of this government and parliament, in the past it's rare for governments to move a motion of Sine Die at least within the first 12 months in office. But today we have moved on and move away from that syndrome as demonstrated of our political maturity in order for the parliament to be better serve, serving of our people.

With the underpinning principles that we value in our leadership and responsibilities, successive governments and parliaments have adapted policies and guidelines aiming at causing positive impacts on the lives of our people, and growing of our economy at the real growth at sustainable rate. However, I feel that many of these policies and guidelines fall short of addressing the right priorities of our people, and undertaking

the relevant reforms at those times that should trigger and enhance sustainable and real growth of our economy. When one reflects on those policies and guidelines, one can conclude that they only promote edge cutting of the issue and challenge to say the least. And fall short of that, do able and practical strategies that when adapted and implemented will promote and realize real growth at a sustainable rate.

Mr Speaker, this is the desire as well as the determination of the DCC government for the people of Solomon Islands or development partners and investors. The policies and guidelines of the DCC government will advance and provide directions for the right priorities that will promote real growth. So that the people of Solomon islands will see and more importantly experience real growth in our communities, regions, province and the country as a whole...7.12..past administrations deliberately ignore some of the key fundamental reform programs initiated by the DDC government. If these fundamental reform programs were pursued in the past decade, I imagine our challenges will not as complex as they are today.

Our challenges as early push out by our youths from our schools and learning centres, deteriorating health centres, youth unemployment, negative impact on our urban centres, unsustainable harvesting rates of natural resources, high inflation rates and lack of decentralisation of key government investments in our provinces in strategic location to name a few. These things can be managed if such policies and guidelines are adopted then.

We need to see and pursue these reforms through a single lanes, we must remind ourselves that Solomon Islands is a least developed country, although we are also a large ocean island state. We need to remind ourselves that the administration policies of these categories are not the same although Solomon Islands as a country fit very well in both category and description. In this regard, the implementation of the DCC Government policy should be pursued in a holistic manner for better implementation of the 2015 Appropriation Act and full use of the capacities and capabilities of the responsible and relevant government ministries and agencies.

As I have stated earlier in my debate of the 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015, my ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Ministry of Police, National Security & Correctional Services, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Immigration, Ministry of

Agriculture & Livestock, Ministry of Public Service and Office of the Prime Minister to name a few. This is most effective means for achieving the objectives of our service and programs to the people, especially targeted groups.

We can effectively address and respond to some of the issues in Forestry we do not involve colleagues from these government ministries or agencies and responsible stakeholders. We need to work together as a whole of government machinery and in the same directions if we want to see and experience positive reform in the development and harvesting of our natural resources. We need to administer legislation that outlines positive reform, if we want to receive maximum benefits and return from our natural resources. On that note, I take this opportunity to recognise the visions and efforts of past administration. In the review of the Fisheries Act and to date the Honourable Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resource for completing this process, thank you Minister.

I also thank this Parliament for eventually passing this revised legislation for effective management of our fisheries resources. My ministry will also continue to carry out work that forms the administrations in terms of revising our legislation for forest resources and timber processing. After decade of review, it is time that we can conclude our consultations and set out a strategic and plans realising the outcomes and outlooks of these consultations. We need to include sound characteristics for forest harvesting and timber processing in the 21st century, in our revised legislations and regulations. We need to outline the correct protocols and means of benefit sharing of our natural resources with our resource owners, stakeholders and state. We need to be mindful, of issues and concerns such as emissions and sustainable forest management, when determining our minimum standards of requirements for harvesting and processing of our natural resources. In this regard, I encourage my colleague Minister for Mines, Energy & Electrification [7.17](#) to prioritize the review of the Mines and Minerals Act so that these reforms can be done in a holistic manner for full recognition for the benefits and returns of our natural resource to our resource owners and the state. Most importantly, we should be thinking about our future generations and their generations when we formulate, revise and contemporary legislation. Since independence we imagine ourselves as one country but in our undertakings, in our journeys so far I fail to see any proof or proofs of this identity. We rarely refer to us as citizens of one country.

A many of our dialogues and high level talks we seem to promote project and programs for certain provinces and locations to our development partners or investors we fail to explain in our high level talks and dialogue why we prioritise these projects and programs of these provinces and strategic locations. We fail to submit these proposals in our own development context. In that regard we allow our friends to dictate to us, then their series of what is good for Solomon Islands and I am what is best for them.

I endorse the sentiments by the Honourable Prime Minister in his opening remarks on this motion that the future of this country and its subject depend on this Parliament and I repeat this Parliament Sir, this Parliament can build or destroy the future of our generations and their generations if we decide to or not to apply and the entertain petty politics agendas or games during its life. We can choose to be careless about our responsibilities and allow the future and the attach benefit of our natural resources to be evaporated in no time. This is serious matter for us as leaders to ponder upon.

I would also like to send some message to my constituency just for the record Sir. I thank you for my people of North West Guadalcanal for having the trust in me for a second term.

To my good chiefs and landowners lives, open up your suitable lands, areas for development. Plant more cocoa trees, coconut and vegetable gardens since we are right next door to Honiara where the markets are placed.

We are not poor but we are rich in resource so we are waiting for what time more. Sir, the DCC Government's policies are to improve our rural people that are why it clearly reflected in the budget.

As I always say that I am a man of a few words but this is the time for action, we should not wait any more the budget have been passed so we must ready to work hard now Sir, like during our child days, we usually says, "man talem, duim nao". As I conclude, please accept my deepest appreciation for your steady leadership in management of this session of this Parliament. Thank you.

In saying that, I commend the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) and other UN agencies and stakeholders that have jointly formulated and successfully implemented our Solomon Islands Parliamentary Strengthening Program over the past decade, thank you.

We have witnessed and enjoyed the fruits of this program as I encouraged the Chairperson of our Parliamentary House Committee to pursue the next step and recommendations of this program with the relevant authorities so that there is no gap between the closer of this programs and commencement of the next program.

This now leads me to thank the chairperson and members of the 7.22 Public Accounts Committee for the excellent scrutiny of the 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015 as well the corporation in this subsequent process of this Bill. It will be remiss of me if I do not extend similar sentiments and appreciations to the Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary Bills and Legislation Committee as well as the Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary House Committee for their understanding and support during the first session of this Parliament. To Clerk, I congratulate you for your fine efforts and leadership style as evident in the smooth execution of this Parliament business. Your staffs had proven their competence and deserve to be recognised soon than later. On the executive front, I refer to the Honourable Minister for Finance and Treasury and recognised your hard work and guidance to the submission of the 2015 Appropriated Bill 2015 in this session. You have made history and I congratulate you for that vision and determination. I also the staff members and look forward to their guidance and advice to public service for effective execution of this Bill or rather this Act.

On a similar token, I also recognised the Honourable Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources for setting the benchmark for other government ministries, agencies and stakeholders in the review of their respective legislations and regulations for maximum return of our natural resources either to our resource owners, State and investors. As we conclude this session, let us continue to depend on our creator for all that we need as we undertake our duties as His stewards in our various roles and responsibilities.

Sir, on that note, I wish you well and I am in favour of the motion. Thank you.

Hon JOHN MANENIARU (*Fisheries and Marine Resources*): Thank you Mr Speaker, I promise I will be very brief. I do not want to repeat what my colleagues who have spoken earlier. But let me sincerely thank you for your indulgence. I feel a bit for missing the opportunity to register the voice of the people of West Are Are on this very traditional motion of sine die moved by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Sir, to Clerk and Speaker, I join the Member for Maringe/Kokota to say that you are very strong. That shows the commitment, dedication and sacrifice for our people in this Honourable Chamber. I want to sincerely thank you for that.

Sir, I join other colleagues to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for moving this motion of sine die. It is a traditional motion as everyone else earlier had said. It gives the opportunity for everyone to talk and that is what I am happy about. I was on the other side of the Chamber in the last term. Now I am sitting on this side of the Chamber for two sessions to listen as well as to participate. If I do not participate, it will be imbalance for me. Again I really thank you for this opportunity, though it is late.

Thank you again Honourable Prime Minister for the opportunity to contribute to this motion of sine die. I want to thank your staff, Honourable Prime Minister, SSPM, STC, Caucus Chairman, political appointees of the DCC Government who under your portfolio for supporting you throughout this meeting and also guide your able leadership to lead us in this session. On the same note, I also join other colleagues to thank His Excellency, the Governor General for delivering the Speech from the Throne as other colleagues had already highlighted in their acknowledgement. 7.27 I also want to thank His Excellency for guiding us with that Speech from the Throne.

At this point in time I would like to thank all our government officials, staff, directors, undersecretaries and permanent secretaries go all government ministries including State Owned Enterprise (SOE) that supported this session in one way or another. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the PAC and his members for the scrutiny function with the budget. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Bills and Legislation Committee and committee members for their work in the Fisheries Management Bill 2015.

I also join the call by the Prime Minister for all to continue working together. It has been a very successful meeting and I acknowledge it because it is a very entertaining meeting and a lot of good things have been said. I also thank the Prime Minister for taking the approach of receiving and he has made a commitment that his government will take up the important matters raised. This is a very positive start for us and I acknowledge the Prime Minister for that.

Sir, I would like to commend the minister of finance and his staff for coming up with this 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015. Implementation is the challenge that has been echoed by earlier speakers. The issue of time also causes a lot of panic that nothing will happen because only 7 months is left to implement. But the DCC Government new and is yet implement its policies. I would like to assure us that many good things have come out. Let us be positive and be responsible for us to continue to offer support as was registered on the floor of parliament.

Many good suggestions have been echoed and the Prime Minister has taken note of them 7.32. They are good suggestions and it gives me – maybe because of the timing of this meeting that when we were on the other side, we talked a lot about good things but not when you are on the government side. It is a challenge for us this side because the budget is big and we might be absorbed into the budget and we forget about the good things. It has been happening. I give credit to the whole house for directing me into that focus; that there are lots of things that need to be done. DCC has its plans and policies as well as those that have been received on the floor in this session. I think that is a good start for us.

With regards to the Fisheries Management Bill, firstly, I would like to thank the whole house. I thank you Mr Speaker. It is a big Bill and we managed to get through within two days. It is learning experience for you and me who are new to such long Bill. Mr Speaker, you are new to this job but you have demonstrated that you are capable and have the able leadership in such a situation.

I would like to thank all my colleague MPs on the government side, the Leader of the Opposition and his members, the Leader of Independent Group and his members for the overwhelming support to this very important Bill. On that note, I wish to thank the staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for their work well done in achieving this Bill. I would like to thank the AG Chambers, the legal consultants that involved in the whole process. I would also like to thank other stakeholders in the fisheries sector that provide support so that we achieve this Bill.

I also thank the New Zealand Government that fund a project within the ministry and it directly supports this Bill to be successful in terms of its tabling to the floor of this honourable house.

Statements were raised during the debate on the floor that put pressure for the minister to rush this Bill and pressure from EU was also alleged and also other pressures. I would like to inform the house that there is no such thing. The Bill is ready. The only thing left was to complete the remaining unfinished part. There is no pressure from anywhere. If I would turn it around, is that what happened during the past seven or eight years when the Bill remained in the ministry? Was it because of those pressures that prevented those at that time from bringing this Bill to Parliament? Were there other networking and connections that prevented the Bill from a time finish in that seven or eight years so that it can be brought to Parliament? Those are two sides of the coin. Even the EU itself does not put any pressure. I will comment on the yellow card given to us because it was made mentioned of during the debate.

This Bill belongs to Solomon Islands and its people. It is a good Bill that is ready for the better management of our EEZ and for the benefit of our people and our country. This is why I bring this Bill and speakers talk on it already....7: 37..it will also improve our income potentials and opportunities for our country. As being rightly said in the debates that we must change our focus on our coastal fishery, and that is why I am very pleased with this Bill. The timing of it is very appropriate since we will be doing some important work on this sector.

Regarding the yellow card, the bill is not in purpose for the yellow card, the Bill is very ready. The fact is our country really needs this Bill now to better manage its EEZ fisheries. Every country that export Fish export products to EU are subjected to the EU trade requirements and Solomon Islands is no exception.

Globally, countries like Korea, Sri Lanka, Philippines, African states, Caribbean Islands state have all dealt with EU and have received similar warnings; the yellow card. Within the region, countries such as Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, they also received yellow cards. Vanuatu just got back to a green card, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu still have their yellow cards; but they do not export any products to the EU still they received it, so it's more related to the fisheries sector and the interest in the fisheries sector. So the passage of our Bill is very timely and will help us to prepare and administer the issues. In October 2014 Fiji and Vanuatu also received their green cards from the EU, after these countries completed significant progress in the Fisheries Management system in order to curve illegal fishing.

These illegal fishing under those licenses are the reasons as to why they penalized us with the yellow card. It is all about how we manage our license and who are we issuing licenses to.

The mentioned pacific island countries managed to adopt a new legislation, improve on their monitoring, control and inspection system and so they got back getting the green card. Following the EU IUU regulations, the EU have looked at the weak traceability and catch certification system we have, and we have also addressed that in the Act.

Those gaps are in our fisheries Act 1998, so the 2015 fisheries Management Bill which we have passed addresses the management, monitoring, control, and Surveillance so that we can prevent illegal fishing in our waters. That is the good thing about the Bill which we have passed. That is basically the back ground information in response to clear some doubts which arise during the debate.

Another issue which arise in the debate, the issue of naturalized citizens' right under the fisheries management Bill 2015. Customary rights on ownership on the land and sea is already there with you, so our naturalized citizen have secondary rights, but according to custom they also have the rights 7.42 but for livelihood and use. We all know about this in our culture. Those that we are referring to here are under our the government's arrangements, but the land they are talking about belongs to the government.

I want to take us back to the budget we have just passed, the \$4.1 billion budget, and ask what are we passing it for. We always say it belongs to the people at our rural villages. I want to share this with you, in 2009 population there were 515,870 people in our country. Males were 264,455 and females were 251,415 that is why we need budget but it's not yet the end. There are more challenges, if you look at the population, I will summaries it but I am prepared to further clarify as to how we should look at our population in light with our wealth and especially the budget when we talk about how we will implement it.

Mr Speaker, the time boom which Baegu Asifola is talking about youths, and Central Guadalcanal also touched on that, but let me give you the figure. Age between 0-24 years, 305,915 youths, this is 2009 census. That represents 59.3 percent of our population, more than half. It is really a time boom and if we are playing around with this budget and the resources. Then it's a time boom, our rural population represents the population in that area, its 413,840 compared to urban 102,030. That is 80.2 percent of the population living in

the rural villages and communities. When we talk about these issues and if you look at the age of 15-25 years are youths, 96,631 youths in that age category. Our census data gives us a lot of things that we should think about when we come into the resources. If you look at it, it comes and also helped us.

I will also touch on the tax free salary but if you look at the census in 2009, the average household size in Solomon Islands is 5.5, which means one house there are six people living that house, in Honiara itself is around 7. You cannot feed them with one packet rice and that is our culture, we are still in Solomon Islands. That number of household if you look at its average is 5.

The other information I want to share and when we look at our constituencies, the population is increasing. 7.47 Eight of our constituencies have gone beyond 15,000 people and 22 constituencies have over 10,000 people in them. There are more data available for us to digest so that when we come up with policies, we can look at addressing poverty. If we are not careful, we ourselves can also create poverty. The population of our constituencies is growing very fast. In a snapshot I want to share this information in order to give us a picture and have a budget to cater for such big population at our constituencies.

I also want to touch on the work of the NGOs in our country, that is, some of the NGOs they have conflict of interests and they just try to cover up under the guidance of accountability and transparency. They also help to the public to say that we are not transparent and accountable in some ways. During my campaign last year before the general election, even a NGO group that monitor the constituency of West Are'Are, they also monitor my campaign and they were stopped when my campaign managers confronted them. So that is why we need to take a closer look as well to the NGOs, so I just want to flag it that sometimes the NGOs are not accountable and transparent.

The other thing that the people also point their fingers to us is about the issue of tax free salary, it is very clear, that even it is taxed it is not big. I want to say here that I was once a CEO before entering Parliament and the salary which is going to be tax free is no way close to my salary at that time. Even the SOEs salary even if they are not taxed they still have enough, so our people should not complain about it. In addition, the CEOs even though they already have high salaries, they also have vehicles...7.52..they refill their vehicles because they are CEOs. That is their privilege and there is medical privilege for the family. I am a

minister but I pay for the costs of medical for my family. CEOs have life insurance, free house if there is no rental, free gas, electricity, water, telephone, mobile, VIP travel by plane, first class on ships, entertainment budget, children's education, all these things are taken care of. CEOs get pay for their families only and their net salaries are more than that of the Prime Minister. All these are met by the company. That is a privilege of being a CEO. We are CEOs of parliament and government ministries. What else do we need to do when we can make the laws of this nation and now the whole of West Are'Are are at my house day and night? You are talking about the whole of West Are'Are as family for this salary. I want our people to research into this. Maybe they just want to pursue issues about Members of Parliament as if we are corrupt so that is why they do these things.

When I worked as a CEO, I stop work at 4pm. As a Member of Parliament for the past four years and this is my fifth year, I work seven days a week. People come to my house early in the mornings and that is when I start work. You only stop work when you sleep. People call and send text messages. It is a seven days work being an honourable member. That is the reality of it. What are our people talking about? I want our people to be realistic.

I would like to call on the media organisations in the country not to be negative on the government. You should inform our people and help out in the process of recovering our country. Say good things to people, especially those at home. They need our media to inform them but instead the media mislead our people for the mere conflict of interest. They even have their own politicking too. People are talking about these issues in the facebook. I say this because I was once a CEO and that package is more than what the MPs receive on the tax free. I want to encourage our media and the Facebook groups to assist our people and the government. If the government does something good, look at the good things first before making criticisms. Do not be negative from the start by jumping up and down. 7.57 We are all responsible as citizens of this country to advance this country to its prosperity, not just parliamentarians or PSs but all of us, everyone from the top down to the cleaners – we are all responsible.

I just want to highlight this because I am also ashamed of hearing them talking about us, but I do not feel guilty because I am not shocked about the money. Why are they not talking about money that other people are getting? But why should anyone be talking about

it too? Talking about the privileges of parliamentarians, MPs too need to be receiving privileges. This must be cleared to our people, and especially those who are trying to mislead and misinform our public. I call upon them to repent from that attitude and mentality, so that they support our government and organisations, they are on course to actually help. All of us can admit that, to take our country back on course is not an easy job. It will happen overnight – no. That is very important for all of them to know. I just want to comment on two comments raised. I want to thank the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee for raising his concern about the proposal by the Minister for Finance to relax the requirements in the Public Finance Management Act to help us in these remaining months. I think if those are not relaxed, we will be finding it very difficult. In the past, we always get through advance. When we were struggling – some have already advanced funds.

Under this situation of seven to eight months, I think if the Minister for Finance wants to help us to actually implement the budget to our constituencies, then it is a sincere and genuine move. If you do not like it, I will just use his discretion for West Are Are. I went to the Ministry of Finance four times last year, but I was not successful. You cannot go through the people at the Ministry of Finance. I tried asking for help from the top, but it was also very difficult. We should do things properly. This is a golden opportunity we have, so that this important piece of legislation will go through. But it was half cooked as someone said in the debate as I can recall. And then we come and struggle with as a bipartition committee. Those who are involved will know. We have tried but go through because the regulation is even bigger than the principal Act. That is where it is. For us to actually get a Bill through this process is not easy. When we have the opportunity, as someone said ‘strike while the iron is hot’. The iron was hot, but we did not strike it. That is my regret because we have the golden opportunity for us to push the Political Parties Integrity Act through, but we have missed it. But we will work on it, as the Prime Minister has highlighted. We have missed to bring it in during this session, maybe towards the end of the year. But I just want to echo this sentiment because I also talked about it last time [8.02](#).

Mr Speaker, I just want you to allow me to thank my people of West Are Are for their patience and understanding. Since December there is no money and my people have been ringing and texting me like my other colleagues, and so I want to thank my people of West Are Are constituency for their understanding and support. I want to ask my people

not to come to Honiara otherwise you will regret it. Stay there, I will come with our programs; the CDOs, CPOs and accountants will come with your programs. Do not follow your own plan so that you will be disappointed. I want to thank them for their prayers. My people are nervous, because other people have the strategy to say that your Member of Parliament has been arrested by police. Every week are saying that about me. There are some people in my constituency who have that strategy using that. If they are listening I urge them to stop it. Even police went to investigate alleging that I am corrupt. They point fingers at me, but the bible is saying that you continue pointing the Honourable member of West Are'Are with one finger but the three fingers are pointing at you. Those who accused me of corruption, look at the three fingers pointing you. The bible is saying you only points the dust in the eyes of the Honourable Member but what about the logging in your eyes.

I want to say that, so that my people can listen to it, so that it is time to work. The Prime Minister wants a lot of projects happening in Malaita and West Are'Are is in Malaita. So my people we must be ready, repent and reconcile and lets continue to seek God's grace, so that it straightens us, so that we can work and take advantage of the opportunities that is available for us. I will leave it at that.

Lastly but not the least, I want to again thank you, for your understanding and perseverance. We have achieved a lot, I think there is a good result and our reward is that we have passed two bills. So that is our present. I want to thank the clerk and with his professional staff, those in the kitchen, the securities for them to provide the environment for us to meet.

I also want to thank our development partners, who again help us in this budget, as well as helping us with non-appropriated projects. I like to thank all the leaders of all our churches throughout the country and all our Christian brothers and sisters, throughout our country as well for them to continue praying for us, everyday. And we must take heed of those prayers, so that it can help us to be strong, so that we can also please our people and our God, through our constituency responsibility.

I want to thank the Prime Minister for the motion. And thank you for you to move it, and give us the opportunity to register those acknowledgements and the few comments on

behalf of my people of West Are'Are. With these few remarks and comments I support the motion.

Mr JIMMY LUSIBAEA (*North Malaita*): Thank you Mr Speaker for recognising North Malaita, and to give me this opportunity to talk on the motion of Sine Die, moved by the Honourable Prime Minister, on Friday 24th April 2015.

At the beginning of this session, I raised some remarks on a number of issues relating to the historical speech delivered to this Honourable House by His Excellency the Governor General, the 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015, the Fisheries Bill 2015, and the trade policy framework presented to this Parliament by the respective Minister. These remarks and concerns are those of my good people of North Malaita constituency. I would like to thank your respective ministers and the Prime Minister himself for his assurance on the floor of this Parliament on some of the concerns, especially the proposed development earmarked for the province of Malaita, more especially the one in the South and North Malaita. And also the proposed industrial park at Kadabina, which is in my constituency. Second which is also featured under the 2015, appropriation bill that of the trade policy framework report and that is on attracting investment into the country.

The DCC Government in its policy statement spelt out its ambition, in attracting foreign investors into the country. Sir this is an excellent move and the people of this country will benefit from such a policy especially in securing foreign direct investment. I and my good people of the constituency of North Malaita have fully support that the idea, however I have a problem with the approach that the government is taking in trying to attract foreign investment into the country.

Sir there are two economies which are good examples, of how a country can benefit from embracing other larger economies; they are Singapore and Mauritius. Neither countries has extensive natural resources but have leverage of their proximity to larger economies to develop their own economies. Fifty years ago Singapore was a sleepy Asian city. But showing the early signs of being a hub, the key to its success has been its geographic possession but an open and encouraging foreign investment environment, including low tax rates and open fiscal system including access to foreign exchange, a

reliable and trusted judiciary and a stable and strong political and economic leadership has enable its economy to grow and keep growing.

On the other hand Mauritius is a small Island country in the Indian Ocean, between India and Africa. Forty years ago, Sugar accounted for 95percent of its export income, today it is about 15percent, yet Sugar occupies 90percent arable land and has higher product than 40years ago. Mauritius has used its geographic location between India and Africa especially South Africa to create a diverse economic opportunities and growth. It consistently ranks in the top twenty countries globally for doing business, better than some G20 and OECD countries. It is currently ranked eight on the Economic Freedom, its tax are low at 15percent personal and business- the same as Singapore and import duty on average is less than 1percent. It has diversified into textile manufacturing, information/technology, financial and business service, seafood processing and also tourism.

Sir, Mauritius is no different Solomon Islands, since our Independence our economy depend heavily on the Forestry sector, especially on logging. We need to diversify to other sectors such as Fisheries, agriculture, tourism, mining and Agro, seafood processing, personal and business taxes should be reduced to allow business and individuals ...8:12...to utilize the extra money into growing their business activities and develop a better livelihood, like Singapore it is welcoming of foreign investments without time consuming and cumbersome processes.

An important characteristic in both Singapore and Mauritius just as it is in other successful economies, is that the foreign investment regulatory regime is clear and simplified. The point I'm trying to put across is that the government and the investment division do not try to pick winners, but they should open to all. We must let market determine whether Business plans succeeds or fails. The key is to provide clear rules governing investments that appeal to all potential investments.

Our country is no different to the two mentioned countries. We are also geographically located between two major economies namely Australia and Papua New Guinea. We can become a successful hub if we are strategic in our approach to grow our economy. This Hub can become the trading hub targeting nations such as Nauru, Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa and Tonga. We are directly at the door step of Papua New Guinea, why not establish such a trading hub within the Shortlands islands group to take

advantage of the economic growth. This would create and diversify economic opportunities and growth for that part of the country.

Our difficulty in the past and even now with the DCC government is that there is much emphasis on picking winners and this discourages investments; let us only have one door with a clear guideline for all potential investors, of course it is important to ensure that foreign investors are here in the country like all business. The issue is that if they enter through a different door or through a separate criteria or a memorandum of understanding, this may not undermine the rightful departments of their responsibility but may resolve to a different set of investment guidelines, hence that will easily compromise our national labour laws, tax laws, environmental laws and even such investors will be expecting so much from the country that in the end the country loses more than what we should gain. So it is important within the country to have appropriate equipped specialist agencies to reinforce this which should not be part of our foreign investment division. If we are truly serious on getting investments we must begin to make the right change now.

Let me make a brief remark on an issue of importance which I would like to leave with the 10th parliament, and that of our DCC government. The Melanesian Spearhead Group will be holding its meeting here in the country in June this Year. Whilst there are calls for the government to include the issue of West Papua to be a full member of the organization, I would like flag the issue of Solomon Islands descendent from the Black birding days to be given some thought in this coming MSG meeting. The Solomon Islands lost generation which is mostly from Guadalcanal, Central Islands, Malaita and so forth, originally living- some in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and even in Australia, should be given the opportunity to have dual citizenships, this people are part of this country and we need to know whether they have the same rights in the countries that they are now citizens, if not we as a nation should give them that chance of returning back. The country can gain enormously through properly managed program of them returning to this country. There will be gains that the country can benefit, this may include in the areas of investment and trade, improvement of sports, needed skills; the descendants are already within these countries that we the moment targeting our trade policy. This will also reduce our efforts in trying to promote our products and services outside of Solomon Islands, they are already there. Let us look at this issue as it may be a blessing to this country. I will leave it there.

To my good people of North Malaita constituency, especially the chiefs, church leaders, the general population, thank you for your unwavering support and prayers. 8.17 Our constituency will be hosting a number of national projects, both within our boundary and with those of our neighboring constituencies such as the Suava Fisheries, and the seaport are the projects we must support. These are important initiatives that if materialized would contribute greatly to our constituency's development. I would like to call on all of us to work together in creating an enabling environment that will make these initiatives move forward.

In conclusion, let me convey my appreciation to the Clerk and his staff of the Parliament, the Deputy Speaker and your good self, as the honourable Speaker of this honourable House, for the support rendered to us during this Parliament Meeting. I also thank the Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries, staffs of ministries that produced bills to this House at this Parliament Meeting. I also thank the Leader of the Opposition and your team and that of the Leader of the Independent for dispensing your constitutional roles.

My special thank you goes to the Minister for Police, the honourable MP for Central Guadalcanal for his confirmation of payment for the Field Force personnel allowance for their service to our country at the border with Papua New Guinea. Thank you very much honourable Minister.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the honourable Prime Minister, his ministers and the DCC Government for prioritizing our rural populace through the People's Budget 2015. It is our hope and prayer that we together on both sides of this House with God's guidance will fulfill the intention of this year's budget in the remaining months of this year. With those few remarks I support the motion and I resume my seat.

Hon Manasseh Sogavare: Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me leave to wind up the debate on the motion of Sine Die which I moved on Friday last week. I promise that we will finish at about 5 to 12 midnight. I am not intending to do that. In fact if we are to count the other day, it is going 16 hours now that we are debating this question that Parliament will end today. And second only to the debate to the number of hours we have spent on the Budget, about 25 – 26 hours to debate these two motions, and so I will not take us too long. But just want to thank everyone for your contributions to this motion.

Everything that colleagues from that side of the House have raised have already been answered by this side of the House and so it looks like I do not have anything else to say, and so I would just like to stand here and thank everyone and endorse some of the statements that have been made. As rightly observed by those who have already spoken, it has been a very productive and fruitful 18 Parliament days, spread over a period of six calendar weeks. We break and allow the committees to work but Parliament sits for almost six weeks. So it has been a very productive one and a meeting that is marked with high level of respect and understanding of each other. This is a development that we would like to further enhanced in future meetings, so that we make better use of Parliament time. 8.22

I also want to thank everyone, all Members for their well thought-out contributions and constructive observations of the proceedings of Parliament and the businesses that come before Parliament for deliberations, and for making special reference to the Speech from the Throne. Members are picking up issues that came out from the Speech from the Throne, even though we have had a special thank you motion in response to His Excellency's Speech but maybe because some of you did not have the chance to participate back then and so they just did it now. The other one is the motion to thank the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Program, the Solomon Islands Trade Policy and, of course, the motion of *Sine Die* that we are deliberating.

A number of important questions have also been directed to the government during the course of the meeting. I want to acknowledge some of the concerns raised by the other side on some information we wanted to be placed in the pigeonholes but were not provided. We fully acknowledge that concern. But how that should come about is like this. It is the duty of the Permanent Secretary to listen to the statements of ministers on the floor of Parliament, and we will take those issues very seriously. Permanent Secretaries should be listening to what their ministers are saying on the floor of Parliament. If information needs to be placed in the pigeonhole, the PSs take that up and do it. It is an embarrassment to some ministers that information are not provided in Members' pigeonholes. We do acknowledge that and we hope to correct that in the future so that when a minister promises to supply information in the pigeonholes, that information gets to the pigeonholes on that same day.

We also take note of comments raised by the Opposition members on questions and answer time. Your role is to question the government and the ministers' duty is to answer in a truthful manner. That is well taken. But if you go to some Parliament Houses, question time is mad house time; they do not answer questions. If we go strictly by the way the system we adopt operates, we will not be answering questions but everyone will be just shouting at each other in here and questions will be answered. Our house is a very much civilized house. Those who have been long and ministers actually answer the questions well nevertheless we will take note of the concern and hope to improve it next time around.

I would also like to thank the Leader of Opposition, the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee and the Member of Aoke/Langalanga for their contributions - those are very useful comments. They have made very useful comments in response to a lot of issues that were raised in this House and for that I would like to thank them. I find that very encouraging and goes to demonstrate that Members are taking policy discussions seriously. I agree whole heartedly that there is very little difference **8.27** in the policies of successive Solomon Islands Government because we all know about our problem and so when a government comes in, it always emphasizes the same thing. We fully acknowledge that and therefore, it is just logical that we continue to help each other in developing the national development strategy. As the highest institution of accountability in the land, I believe that Parliament has, during the course of the meeting, live up to that expectation of our parliamentary democracy. It is only seen as that because of the effective participation of Members of Parliament.

Three Standing Committees of the House have also been very active during the course of the meeting, and colleagues here have acknowledged that and I would like to take the opportunity again as the mover of this motion to acknowledge again the Public Accounts Committee under the able chairmanship of the Member of Parliament for South Malaita, the committee has made a thorough review of the 2015 Appropriation Act and supporting schedules, and there are about 47 recommendations made. Thank you for that. Of course, the Bills and Legislation Committee under the able chairmanship of the Member of Parliament for North West Choiseul sitting down there and my wantok. That Committee has reviewed one of the longest bills that has ever come before the House in many years,

and the succinct way in which the reports are compiled directly points to the recommendations made, which are very helpful to the debate in Parliament.

We also acknowledge the Minister of Fisheries, and as highlighted by some of us, has single handedly handled this Bill through the Committee of the Whole House. I also acknowledge the Minister of Finance. I was with this man for a long time now. In fact, we are the last people to continue to survive from the 1997 House. We came in, in 1997 Parliament and we are the only ones left now. Of course, the Member for South New Georgia/Rendova and Tetepari went out and came back again. And putting together he is probably the longest one in the House so far, and I and the Minister for Finance are now going for five terms. So with this man and that man over there, when I was Prime Minister in 2000 when the going is tough, you need tough people. So one is here and the other one is sitting down there, and I thank them very much and they are inside Parliament again. But the other one is sitting down on the wrong side of the House because he should be sitting down on this side of the House so that we continue on together.

I can remember very well when we had to pay this money in Tolbruk somewhere out there in the sea. That time my senior advisors and senior members came and sit down with me and said, "Prime Minister, this July 7 we have to pay the money. I think it was \$12million or something that I need - two cheques, and I asked the minister sitting down there, he was my Minister of Finance, I said "Minister, I do not care how you do it but I just want two cheques, one \$7million and the other one \$5million, bring them over and put them on my table by 7 o'clock tomorrow morning because we need to deliver that. I do not know but they must have been talking 8.32, the Governor talked, they talked with the NPF. I just do not want to know how they did it but we have two cheques worth \$12million that morning delivered to the ship for exchange of the two cheques between Guadalcanal and Malaita. So it has been tested through hard times and he has got all the support of the DCC Government to continue to handle that. And we thank the minister because even the 2015 Budget itself has to go through hell to get the ministry and the officials in line so that they understand what the government wants to do. So I would like to acknowledge that as well for the two bills that came before the House – the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Minister for Finance and Treasury. I also acknowledge the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade for presenting the Solomon Island Trade Policy

Framework. He arrived back the other day and the next day he presented his paper. I guess he may have prepared this in the plane whilst flying back. Thank you very much for that, and that business was also dispensed with by this Parliament.

As mentioned in my introductory statement to this motion, as well as echoed by some colleagues here, I have taken personal note of the policy issues raised during the meetings. This would be the first time for us to do this. And in my capacity as the coordinating minister of government programs and policy, I will direct them to the responsible ministries and the Policy Evaluation Unit for further consideration. What is going to happen is that the government is not going to be concerned about our own statements because we have access to Caucus and Cabinet, and so we will raise our concerns there. But the issues that are raised by that side of the House, we will use our political appointees to get the Hansard Reports and analyse them. And if there is any need to relook at some of the policies to improve something, of course, we have a cabinet and caucus to discuss what is raised.

It would be simply impossible for me to respond to all the constructive contributions made by Members who have actually taken the time to prepare their interventions. I would like to thank all of you wholeheartedly. You can tell that from the quality and policy content of the interventions is highly appreciated. It is worth the time that Members have taken to prepare their interventions. And the issues raised ranged from very simple things to the big things. I want to just mention a few here – the culling of stray dogs. That was raised in this Parliament. We could laugh about it, but the concern was raised in relation to the fact that the population of dogs nearly outnumbered the population of people living in Honiara. You can see them overrun by vehicles. The fact that Parliament can go that low to pick up such an issue shows that we are observant. The culling of stray dogs, climate change, sustainable development, development of the productive sectors, and the standard of soccer was also mentioned by someone. We feel very bad when our teams lost in overseas competition. It is a bad, bad feeling. That was mentioned in here. And we must do something to improve the standard of soccer in this country. This is a soccer country, but countries that are not known for soccer are winning the games.

Foreign relations and effective use of budget resources to deliver on government policy intentions, 8.37 political instability was raised and the need to bring an amendment to

the Political Parties Integrity (PPI) Act to address the disease that is plaguing our political system and is a major setback to growth and progress. That was also raised. Yes, the Government is taking on that issue and it looks like we are going to go back to the 2009 version, improve that version and bring it back here. We think that is the best so far that has come to this Parliament, and we need to revert to that. So be ready, and the PPI group is coming to see me immediately after Parliament is adjourned to discuss this further.

Strategic approach to attracting investment to the country is widely discussed here; we have had a good discourse on that. The concerns raised by the Member of North Malaita is exactly what we are intending to do. On the point about our descendants living in Fiji, that was well covered by the Deputy Prime Minister. We will be looking at dual citizenship as part of the reforms this government is doing and that policy will come through. We take that seriously because His Excellency also wants us to look into that issue.

Addressing school dropouts was also raised as well as access to education. The call for the Government to believe in our commitment to responsible financial management, and the list goes on, are the issues that were raised. But I do not want to go through all of them because if I do we would finish at 12am, and I do not want that to happen.

I find the comment by the Member for Rannonga/Simbo on reviewing how we should structure and present the budget in here as very valid. I know the Minister for Finance will take very serious note of that. Even those coding is wasting Parliament's time because this Parliament is only supposed to vote the amounts to the heads. That is all what we are supposed to be doing. But we have gone through the details. That comment is well noted, and the Minister for Finance and probably we will be seeing a different kind of presentation in documents that will be presented in future. The Standing Orders may need to be changed. Maybe the PAC needs to be restructured so that the whole process of scrutinizing the budget happens at the PAC level, we use that committee, when we come in here we only vote on the heads, which means the budget can be passed just within three days. We will look into that and we take that suggestion very seriously. There are many other good suggestions that were also made, and so I will ask my office to come and pick up the Hansards and we will go through all the comments that have been made.

There is also the issue raised about West Papua, which is a thorn on the Melanesian side for a long time now; going almost 46years now since this issue has been around. And I

have been like that too. When you look at graphic pictures of what is going on there of alleged atrocities in West Papua and you can easily be carried away with what we see. But that is understandable because we are talking about human beings on planet earth and not just some kind of human beings but they are human beings, Melanesians and so 8.42 we feel for them. But we would like to do things appropriately. We understand there is a thorn on the Melanesians side and it is very sensitive to unstuck that thorn. We need to do it really, really sensitively. In fact, if you look at the trend of reports of human right allegations coming in, they are almost the same reports that keep coming up. And so we really need to be careful and the way we would like to address that is, let me assure this House that when it comes to human rights violation, this country will not tolerate it, it will not condone it. I think I have made that statement previously that whether that human rights violation happens in Indonesia, Australia, Solomon Islands, United States of America, Russia or wherever it happens in any parts of this world, this country will condemn human rights violations. That is our stand on human rights violations, but we would like to address it in a civilized way and this is why this government continues to maintain our office in Jakarta. We thank the previous government for opening that office in Jakarta and we would like to use that avenue to talk as friends, as raised by the Deputy Prime Minister today. It is good that friends sit together and when friends sit together they can talk and raise issues directly, and it is good to raise it to a friend than to raise it in an environment that is hostile to each other. That is how we would like to address that, and I acknowledge the acknowledgement by the Member for West Makira who raised this issue because when it comes to the issues of self determination, it is a matter that rests entirely with the government of Indonesia. Of course, we acknowledge the fact that the MSG can be in a position to move things as a sub region but it would have to be left to leaders when we get together to talk about how the MSG can help out. But the position of Solomon Islands has always been there, painful though it may be to some people, but that is the position we have been maintaining for a long time now. The way we would like to approach it is through the right channels.

Their membership is a matter for the MSG leaders to sit and talk about. And for information of this Parliament, there are three applications for membership of the MSG; not only West Papua. There are set criteria in use for countries that want to become a member of the MSG. So when the tight time comes, that matter will be discussed.

I agree wholeheartedly with the views expressed and the fact that many of these issues will continue to be repeated in this Parliament, and the fact that they will be repeated, as I have said last time, shows that leaders are concerned about our country and are urging the government to do the right thing and to deliver on the many big statements that we have been making. I take full note of that and can only assure this country that the members of the Democratic Coalition for Change Government are serious. Just look at the eyes of every one of them, they are very serious at this time.

I just want to wrap up 8:47 on the theme of change and as correctly observed, the Government's development agenda is premised on the theme of change. This is an agenda I would like all of us to share and believe in; that side and more so those of us on this side. I agree that this not something that we must take lightly, and indeed it must begin with us, as some people have already mentioned. It must be our collective desire to make the 10th Parliament a parliament that will be remembered by the future generations as one that is not tainted by narrow political agendas but one that is concerned about progress of this country. Let us make a difference. That commitment is sounded loud and clear by a number of colleagues on this side of the House who would like to see the government last four years. That is a very important undertaking because as rightly pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, any motion of confidence against the Prime Minister will only be successful if members of the Government Bench agree to support it. That is quite a powerful statement, and this because the other side does not have the number but it is this side that has the number. So if the number diminishes from this side then this man will fall down. And for what reason, I do not know. That is a very important observation, so the ball therefore is in our court. I just cannot comprehend why we are going to fall down. We have one goal and objective and that is to deliver on our policy statements. As long as we continue to do the right thing, we vow to last four years.

I also acknowledged my duty not to place Parliament in a situation where it would have to resort to such a measure. In the reflection of the Member for Aoke/Langalanga he made reference to my commitment when I moved this motion. Of course, that is not to say that I will tolerate carelessness and non-performance to go unnoticed. Not at all, because it is not right! I want to survive and so even though we do not deliver, even though we are careless but we still remain as we are. That is not the kind of person this man is. Although

he is a changed person but nonperformance and carelessness will have to be discussed. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the Government delivers on its election promises, nothing less than that.

Much is being expected from the DCC Government because of the stand we take on the agenda for change. It must be our collective resolve not to allow that agenda to break us down. Change is not always easy, not an easy matter to deal with and unless we are committed to it, we will find it unbearable. Be ready 10th Parliament. That is understandable because we all come into this House carrying a number of preconceived ideas, and it is important therefore that we must be opened to change to avoid possible conflicts of agendas. That responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of each and every member of this House.

Yes, we would like to be remembered, this parliament that is, as a parliament that Members understand what their responsibilities are and go about that responsibility in a mature way. That is a very important commitment and 8.52 I am really encouraged by what I have observed so far, which promises that we will see that commitment developed in the course of years. Since this is a three sided house, the responsibility to ensure the positive development of mature attitude is incumbent on all of us.

Yes, we would also like to be remembered as a parliament that conducts its business in compliance with the rules of meeting and encourages the full participation of its members in the business that come before it. I am also encouraged in that regard. Gone are the days when Parliament is placed under immense pressure to deal with the business that comes before it. The budget is brought in and just within two days it goes before the PAC for its scrutiny, brought in here for debate and its debate was even cut short and it is passed. That is not right. We need to allow Parliament to fully use the time allocated under the Standing Orders to properly deliberate on a subject that comes before it. That is why we have the Standing Orders to guide us, and I share the views that bills must be properly scrutinized before they are deliberated on. I think we have lived up to that requirement, to the requirement of the rules that governs the way Parliament should conduct its business in that regard. And it is my desire to continue to respect these rules. It is therefore incumbent upon the government to ensure that bills must come to Parliament in good time to allow the process of Parliament to begin in good time before they are committed to the chambers for

consideration. In this regard, the government heard the call and is committed to produce a legislative calendar to help this process. As soon as this Parliament rises, ministries will be called upon to submit their legislative program to the Prime Minister's Office with an indication of when their legislations would be ready to be tabled in Parliament. Ideally, bills should be laid in Parliament as soon as they are ready to avoid last minute rush because the Bills and Legislation Committee is pressured to deliver its report on its inquiry. This is all part of our collective commitment to respect the process of Parliament as outline in the Standing Orders.

Yes, we would like to be remembered as a parliament that fully supports and encourages the effective operation of the committees of the House in engaging parliament with the people, a parliament that fully respects its responsibility as the highest institution of accountability in the land. Indeed, it is a collective responsibility to see that the 10th Parliament is committed to the agenda of making real difference to the lives of thousands of Solomon Islanders in the rural areas of this country who have been trying to make sense of what successive governments are saying about development and how it affects them. That is an endeavor we want this 10th Parliament to be remembered for. We must be a parliament that is not afraid to make tough decisions, even if it means making sacrifices to effect such decisions for the good of the country and our people. That is a tough calling, I understand but it is all part of the change agenda that we are talking about and we hear and keep repeated by the other side of the house. We must not be afraid to call wrong by its right name and prepare to make changes to do what is right. We must be a parliament that is willing to listen to the people and is able to demonstrate rationality in its decisions to take a stand on issues. When we make tough decisions we have to explain it.

I am not at all suggesting that we should become lapdogs of the critics that make use of the media to character assassinate leaders. I am not saying that. Neither am I suggesting that we should become 8.57 callous to the genuine call for change in attitudes but there must be a common ground upon which issues of concern to the public are handled. The rules must be clear and must be seen to be consistently applied. There is nothing more harmful to the image of this Parliament than for our people to see glaring inconsistencies in our words and actions. We are collectively responsible to protect the image of Parliament on how we present Parliament to our people.

To that, it leads me to the second last point that I want to raise. The government notes the call by the Leader of Opposition and again repeated by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to review membership of the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission. I thank the Minister of Finance for going through it. If you read the newspaper this morning you would see an ugly picture of Sogavare on one column of the paper looking very worried. I think the picture must have been taken when I was still half awake. The news was attributed to what I have mentioned earlier, and I am keen of finding this out because it seems like I was saying something and that was why it was put in the news. If you see one of the papers this morning I was the headline and this issue on the newspaper was with regards to the tax free of Members salary by the PEC. This call is made in connection with the latest salary increase awarded to Members of Parliament by the PEC, I guess in direct response to the public outcry on the awards, and so we can understand the call by the two leaders.

As the other colleagues have already mentioned, the current membership of the PEC includes the Minister of Finance and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. We can understand the concern of the people that the inclusion in that the Commission of the two Members of Parliament raises the question of conflict of interest. But the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee can excuse himself because he was away when the decision was made, so you are safe. In the sense that they are also direct beneficiaries of the award and therefore there is the fear that they may unduly influence the Commission. Such thoughts are probably clouding the minds of people who have been voicing their concerns. And I thank the Minister for Finance for coming out very clear using the necessary data to explain the rationale and thinking behind the awards. We can understand the concerns raised in taking that line of thinking. But if we have heard the explanations that have been made, we will be seen as questioning the wisdom of the founders of our national constitution handed to us. We did not make the Constitution but it was written for us. It was our founding fathers that went to the UK and brought it back to us.

We maybe questioning the wisdom of the founders of our national constitution on the inclusion of the two office holders as members of the Committee under section 69(a)(3) as quoted by the Minister. I mention this again because I was called upon to make some decisions and so I need to make some clarifications here. **9.02** As explained by the Minister

of Finance, the Minister and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee have a constitutional role in the function of the Committee and their exclusion can only be possible on the amendment of the Constitution. I think that point is canvassed very loud and clear in there.

Probably that is something we may want to look at collectively. The Constitution was given to us some 37, 38 years ago so that is something we may want to look into more carefully and truly make such bodies independent. But when the Deputy Prime Minister hammered down the concept of the independence of some of these very powerful institutions, I became a bit uneasy. But it is something we may want to look at 30 years down – this constitution that we have. Grant it, it can be argued that the constitution is not written in stone so that it is immune to change, but as observed in making such change, care must be taken not to undermine the constitutional reason for the inclusion of the two Members of Parliament. That consideration will be part of the review and reconsideration of the inclusion of the Minister and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

As explained, when it comes to the Constitution, that award is given constitutionally and legally. And to add on to the justifications by the Minister of Finance, there are very powerful arguments on this matter. Truly, I am not trying to convert my salary to US dollar. It is laughable for the Prime Minister of this country to receive AUD\$900 per fortnight. It is probably just a small sacrifice that we need to make, but that is the kind of reality we are talking about here.

I personally believe, and the AG did not have the opportunity to talk today but he fully briefed the Minister of Finance that it would not be proper for Parliament or anyone else to clash with another constitutional established body. It would not be appropriate to clash with Parliament because of the beneficiary of the award made by the PEC. Only the PEC can be answerable to the decisions it made on the matter and not Members of Parliament. Section 93(7) of the Constitution is quite clear that it is the PEC that made the decision and so it is only the PEC that can reverse that decision. And so the call on us Members of Parliament to do that is like barking up the wrong tree. This is with all due respect to the people who have raised concerns. I share the views expressed by others who have spoken today that any review to be undertaken by the PEC must include a visit to the house of a Member of Parliament to observe how many people some Members of Parliament

are feeding every day. I think some of us are a bit okay because our constituencies are far and so our people do not come to us very often. Only people who are sick come to us. But any review to the PER to be undertaken by TSI, FSII and others, please visit the house of a Member of Parliament and see for yourselves how many people are feeding every day. I just want to endorse comments that were made on the floor of this Parliament. It is not an exaggeration for a Member of Parliament to feed 9.07 up to 50 people every day. I feel sorry for the Member for Rendova because last week he fed more than 50 people in his house—three meals a day. So any review must include a visit to the house of Members of Parliament. That is the reality of Solomon Islands politics. This is Solomon Islands. Member of Parliament is everything to everybody; we need to accept that fact. It is something we are exaggerating. He is almost obligated to attend to every concern of his constituents. That is the reality of Solomon Islands politics. Any academic who want to come to try to review this should go and see the reality at the homes of Members of Parliament. We are talking about the reality of Solomon Islands politics. It would be dragging the operation of an ideal Westminster System too far in the context of Solomon Islands politics to insist that the role of a politician is purely making legislation. We hear things like that are said on the floor of this Parliament. We are dragging it a bit too far. People who are pushing that kind of thinking in Solomon Islands are living in an imaginary world because it is very easy for people who live a sheltered life to push such thinking, making issues out of it in the media. Our people in the rural areas have simple understanding of the role of Members of Parliament. I do not have any other understanding. If you do not feed them when they arrive, to them the government does not exist. That is how a simple person in the village understands the role of government and Member of Parliament. That is not a good situation for us to be in. We need to get out of this one day. But it will be a great challenge, and probably empower parliament to go and do more awareness to our people to help them understand the role of a Member of Parliament. And our people expect him or her to live up to the expectations. If not in their books, next time you go to campaign in the villages, you will be gone.

Whilst I appreciate the concern raised by concerned citizens of this country, mostly in Honiara, we must also learn to respect the due processes that brought about this decision. This is a matter which I think this Parliament collectively can defend, and we are

determined to do that. We will sit down and talk about this further. We will call the people who are talking to bring some sense to our people.

Sir, the other point that I want to raise is that, and I think the way the government is being presented is that, we look like selfish monsters – not necessarily like government, but Parliament. And it will be wrong to conclude that the government or Parliament for that matter is insensitive to the financial difficulties faced by the public officers and the people of this country. That is argument raised – what about the public officers? I just said that this increase came after the increase for what the public servants received last year but we did not. So it is constitutionally right because public officers get their increase and Members of Parliament later. 9.12 This is consistent with the law. The 2015 Budget continues to incorporate the salary rise of public servants.

We have discussed this in Caucus, and a paper is going to be brought by the appropriate minister to upgrade the levels of all non establish workers in a move to do away with the non establish cadre this year. Some of the drivers in our political office are paid much higher than some of the drivers in government ministries who work for many hours at Level 2. That is not right, and it is very true that that salary is not even enough to buy a bag of rice. This government is committed to do that this year. We will do away with this non establish cadre and promote everyone to a much higher level. Some of these non-establish workers have been working for about 26years on level 2 with no promotion. These are faithful servants of the crown. It is our intention to move all of them to a higher level. And I would not say that Level 4 is unreasonable. The Public Service office, the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) will be jointly responsible in implementing this policy intention.

The government will also consider the issues of teachers and doctors. The government is not turning a blind eye to these people. It is the conviction of the government that the condition of service is playing an important role in ensuring the commitment of our teachers and medical practitioners. The ministries of the education, health and the ministry of finance together with the OPM will continue to attend to these matters.

The Government and Parliament for that matter have responded positively to the call by former serving officers at the border; directly acknowledged by the Member for North Malaita for the payment of their overdue allowances. So who is saying that the government

is not considering these officers? They are going to be paid this year, and I am not only saying the Government but this Parliament approved the payment. The Government and Parliament for that matter is not insensitive to the needs of our people in the rural areas to be actively involved in economic development activities as well. Parliament approved not only \$6.1million because if you add other allocation from other line ministries it is almost \$7million for one constituency. This is when all the allocations in line ministries for constituency project are added up together. This is to address the various development needs of our people in addition to what is budgeted for in line ministries as national projects. You cannot blame Parliament for not looking after the needs of our people down in the rural areas because we are. This is the first time in the history of this country where more resources will be channeled through this avenue, subject of course, to the success of the first year's implementation strategy.

Is Parliament being insensitive to the needs of our people? I do not think so. To the contrary, I believe you now have a Parliament that is very concerned and is determine through the leadership of the DCC Government to take care of our people. And I will leave this matter there.

The call for the Government Bench to improve its attendance is taken very seriously. As I have said, just one red card but its sheer luck that we are not calling a yellow card. By the way we take serious note too of the commitment of the gravel you have stated. We will come and see you at the appropriate time. 9.17

I think that call is correct and is something we have to improve on. As I have said, the very fact that we are in government proves that we command the majority of members in this honourable House, more than what the Constitution requires to form a quorum for any meeting, which is half of the members of the House. I want to thank those for reminding us on this.

For the government, and I need to repeat this; we have heard the calls - the most important task in the next eight months is to deliver the budget. This is placed on my shoulder as the coordinating minister. And for that reason, I have been abusing my deputy already because he has been attending meetings that I should have attended. He is going to attend the PAM7; thank you my minister and other important meetings. I have cancelled most of my overseas trips. I will only attend the PIF in Port Moresby for the reason that I

want to sit down and get this budget implemented with my ministers. We are committed to deliver.

I am very encouraged by the approaches that are made to the government. We heard the call by the Deputy Speaker for another city. Just coincidentally, I had a briefing this morning from very powerful investors who would like to do exactly that. What they are looking at now are the locations. There were discussions about the special economic zones and they have expressed their interests and so I would like to get them to Suava Bay. We will talk more with them if they are coming back in three weeks time to discuss further on the idea of establishing another city; that is how they put it. Although we appreciate the concept of Suava is five - the sea port, the growth centre, an airport, cannery and tourism development. If the entire northern tip of Malaita is zoned, you are looking at the possibility of creating another township, probably bigger than Honiara. Now that an investor has expressed interest, my advice to my officials is for us to bend backwards to make sure these people come and invest. It wants a land here to build another Five Star Hotel and is willing to immediately put in USD\$50million straightaway. That is a very great interest in investing.

We are working very close under this Private/Public Partnership (PPP) arrangement with the group that is looking at building the Kilu'ufi Hospital with the assistance of the Turkish Government. That is coming and the guy who brought in that news has gone back to his government to relay our willingness to work with the Turkish Government to see the Kilu'ufi Hospital built. It is probably looking at a different site or build on the same location. The same investor is looking at other areas for investment. We are encouraged by the Mamara Tourism setup 9.22 just west of Honiara. They are coming to begin the setup and as I have mentioned in my motion of sine die speech, we can go on and talk about other good responses by people who are willing to come and make those investments. We are committed and as soon as the reforms we would like to do are ready, we will bring them to Parliament for us to pass, so that we can talk sensibly with investors who would like to come. We are talking about the idea of building 5,000 residential houses, and we are seriously in negotiation with the landowners up there. As soon as that is cleared, building will progress. There are two groups, and one wants to build 1000 houses and the other group wants to build the 5000 houses but again under the CCP arrangement mentioned by

the Member for Aoke/Langalanga. The whole idea is to rezone the road side buildings like in Kukum which looks very ugly. There is need to look at rezoning that area and relocate the people living there and that area be turned into a commercial area. That is the thinking behind these 5,000 houses we are looking at building in a location we are now seriously in negotiation with the landowners. So good things are coming and what it needs is for us to work together and I think there is a good spirit already demonstrated. I do not have any doubts that there is great willingness for people to work together for us to pursue development for the betterment and interest of our people. That is the sole reason why we are elected to this Parliament.

That is all I wanted to say in my words of thanks and appreciation. I want to thank all of you who have contributed. My apology for keeping us too long as it is almost 10pm. I joined the others who have thanked all those that need to be thanked, and yourself Mr Speaker for providing leadership in Parliament with your staffs who made this sitting of parliament a very successful one. In closing, I beg to move that at the adjournment of Parliament on Wednesday 29th April 2015, which is today, the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall then stand adjourned sine die.

The House adjourned Sine Die at 9.30pm