

TUESDAY 22rd NOVEMBER 2016

The Deputy Speaker, Hon Andrew Manepora'a took the Chair at 9.44am.

Prayers.

ATTENDANCE

All Members were present with the exception of the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Communications & Aviation; Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management & Climate Change; Police, National Security & Correctional Services; Commerce, Industries and Trade; Peace & Reconciliation; Provincial Government & Institutional Strengthening; Fisheries & Marine Resources and the Members for North West Guadalcanal; East Honiara; West Makira; South Vella Lavella; North East Guadalcanal; East Guadalcanal; South New Georgia/Vonavona

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

- Report on the Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2016. (*National Parliament Paper No.27 of 2016*).
- Report on the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill 2016. (*National Parliament Paper No.28 of 2016*).
- Report on the Land Surveyors Bill 2016 (*National Parliament Paper No.29 of 2016*).

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

Bills – First Reading

The Ombudsman Bill 2016

The 2017 Appropriation Bill 2016

MOTIONS

Motion on Special Adjournment

Hon MANASSEH MAELANGA (*Deputy Prime Minister*): I beg to move that at the adjournment of Parliament on Tuesday 22nd November 2016, the present meeting shall stand adjourned to Monday, 5th December 2016.

In moving this special adjournment motion to the 5th of December, the reason is to allow the PAC continue with its hearings this week so that it can scrutinize the budget. I think that is the only reason for this special adjournment to the 5th of December. There are no other reasons, but that is the only main reason for having this special adjournment today until the 5th of December. I have also talked with the Leader of Opposition this morning just to let him know about this special adjournment. I think that is the reason and I beg to move.

Hon JEREMIAH MANELE (*Leader of Opposition*): First of all, let me thank the Deputy Prime Minister for moving this motion of special adjournment, the third one that we now have that at the adjournment of Parliament on Tuesday 22nd November 2016, the present meeting shall stand adjourned to Monday 5th December 2016.

I think the reasons the Deputy Prime Minister has outlined are self-explanatory. Certainly, the Public Accounts Committee definitely needs time to scrutinize the budget. The budget documents are now before the Committee and it is important for the sake of transparency and accountability on the part of government ministries that the Committee does take the opportunity to scrutinise all the budgets for all the ministries. I am sure now that ample time has been given, the Committee will be in a position to do that. We have no difficulty with the Motion with the reasons given.

I also take the opportunity to thank the Minister for Finance and his Ministry for availing the budget documents that are now before the Committee. I think it is also important that Ministers to remind their PSs and Financial Controllers to turn up on time as scheduled by the Public Accounts Committee to avoid any further delays in terms of the hearings. This is to enable the Committee completes its hearings, prepares its report and we are ready for the Second Reading debate when Parliament resumes.

As I have said, this is a straightforward motion of special adjournment and this side of the House does not have any difficulties with it. I guess the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee may wish to say something further on that, but as I have said, we have no problems with this and we do support the motion.

Hon RICK HOUENIPWELA (*Small Malaita*): On behalf of the Public Accounts Committee, I would like to thank you very much. I would like to thank and acknowledge the Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance for considering our request to the government to give time for the PAC to meet. In fact, we wrote to the Prime Minister on the 15th of November and on the 18th November, the STC responded very positively and that is what I want to thank you on behalf of the Committee. We acknowledged that on the 19th November. I would like to assure you that the Committee is conducting inquiries already. In fact, we have started yesterday with the inquiry and we will continue with the hearings after Parliament adjourns today.

The amount of time the government has given to my Committee to carry out its work is adequate and I want to acknowledge that and thank the government very much for that. I support the motion tabled by the Deputy Prime Minister this morning.

The motion agreed to

Hon Manasseh Maelanga: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

The House adjourned at 9.55am