

MONDAY 10TH AUGUST 2009

The Speaker, Rt. Hon Sir Peter Kenilorea took the Chair at 09.44 am.

Prayers:

ATTENDANCE

At prayers, all were present with the exception of the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Planning & Aid Coordination; Justice & Legal Affairs; Culture and Tourism; Foreign Affairs & External Trade; National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace, Fisheries & Marine Resources; Environment, Conservation & Meteorology, Communication & Civil Aviation, Lands, Housing, Mines, Energy & Rural Electrification, Agriculture & Livestock Development, and Provincial Government & Institution and South Choiseul, West New Georgia/Vona Vona, Central Makira, East Are Are, Ngella, North West Choiseul, North Malaita, Temotu Pele, South Are Are, South Vella La Vella, Lau/Mbaelelea, East Makira, Shortlands; West Honiara, North West Guadalcanal, and Malaita Outter Island.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question No. 57 deferred

Auki wreck removal project

61. Mr. OTI to the Minister for Infrastructure Development: Can the Minister inform what the current stage of the Auki wreck removal project for which \$250,000 has been catered for in this year's development estimates?

Hon. SOFU: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the Honourable Member of Parliament for Temotu Nende for asking this very important question.

The Auki removal was scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2009. Unfortunately a revised schedule for completion is set for mid August this year. The contractor has now acquired additional materials to remove the wrecked vessel for scrap disposal.

Mr. Speaker, the reason for the delay is that a contract was entered into in 2007. However, progress has been very slow because the owner of the wreck was not happy with what was happening to the vessel. The contract required the removal of the vessel away from the site but unfortunately it was not done

accordingly and the owner was not happy. An understanding was finally reached between the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the vessel owner hence resumption of the progress. It was scheduled for completion by the end of July 2009. However there was delay in acquiring the required materials until last week. It is now expected that clearance will be completed by mid August this year.

Mr. Oti: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. On wrecks in general, can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry is aware of a similar wreck of this nature at the Lata wharf in Temotu Province? If the Ministry is aware of this, and with the process that was engaged in with the Auki wreck removal project, what is the Ministry's plan for this other wreck which also needs to be removed as part of the Ministry's responsibility in maintaining clearance for shippers to make use of wharf infrastructure facilities in provinces and throughout the nation in general. I am just asking if the Ministry is aware of that other wreck and what is the Ministry's plan to treat it the same as the Auki project?

Hon. Sofu: Mr. Speaker, the Auki wreck came to the attention of the government because of the proposed development that would take place at that particular area for the jetty is and the market.

Mr. Speaker, the government will do the same to any wrecks in the sea in any provinces if any proposed development is going to take place in a particular area because the wreck needs to be cleared for the development activities.

Mr. Oti: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister's explanation on the reasons for the removal of wreck. The supplementary question was to do with perhaps safety of marine navigation in regards to wreckage, particularly if they are obstructions also to ships mooring on wharves. So on the one hand, yes, I accept that the Auki wreck was to do with the intention of clearing the area because of the potential of an infrastructure development project. The other one I raised is to do with safety, equally falling under the responsibility of the Ministry and that is why I asked that supplementary question in regards to the incidents at Lata.

Hon. Sofu: Mr. Speaker, the Marine Division under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development if it identifies any wrecks that might pose danger to ships, then certainly the government is responsible in getting out that wreck from that place. But technical assessment has to be done first by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development under the Marine Division.

Mr. ZAMA: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question to the Minister. What is the work in progress for the removal of this wreck, what is the cost or additional costs for removing this wreck? What are the conditions, if there are conditions, set out between the government and the persons owning these boats for the removal?

Hon. Sofu: I would like to thank the honorable Member of Parliament for the supplementary question. But I would like to tell him that he came in late. The answer on the progress on the Auki wreck has been given today but I would like to thank him for the second part of his question on the total cost of the contract. The contract itself costs \$340,897, and that was the cost in 2007 but in the 2008 variation it went up to \$402,000 and so the total cost is about \$742,000. That is for the contract alone.

Mr Speaker, on the understanding made between the ship owner and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, this work should have been done in 2007 but the contractor doing the work did not follow conditions spelt out in the contract, and therefore the ship owner did not agree with it. The government tried to negotiate with the ship owner. The total cost according to an assessment report, an independent report and the government's assessment valued it at \$2million but the government is yet to pay that \$2million. However, because of the importance of the development that is going to take place on that area, the government has to go ahead with it. Because of that the government had an understanding with the ship owner.

Mr Zama: Seeing that the government, according to the Minister, has paid something to the tune of \$700,000 and now with this additional commitment to the government for \$2million, this is a little bit astronomical of a sum.

Mr Speaker, I just want to know the arrangements between the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development and the ship owner. What is this \$2million for?

Hon Sofu: Mr Speaker, this \$2million is for the owner of the ship. It is the value of the ship. This amount was arrived at after two different assessments were made, one by an independent body and another one by an engineer in the Ministry of Infrastructure Development. The \$2million is the value of the wrecked ship that was lying down there with holes to it. They made an assessment and came up with that valued figure, which is \$2million. It is an iron ship.

The government sees the importance of the two projects that are going to take place in that area worth about US\$10million and that is why it is doing all it can for those projects to go ahead. And that is why understanding was made

between the owner of the wreck and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development but payment is not done made. It stays silent there until there is sufficient money to be paid before we can do it. But so far not yet bt the project can go ahead.

Mr Oti: Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for his response to the principal question and responses to the supplementary questions. Before I sit down, in relation to the supplementary question I asked to which the Minister clarified in relation to the wreckage that refers more to the safety of marine, especially ships that are using the facilities in Lata. Like in Auki it is to do with the intention for an expansion and the other one is to do with clearance to make sure ships that come to moor have easy access and their own safety and that is what I raised in the second question, and the Minister has already responded saying when a technical assessment is provided by the Ministry then they would look at it.

At this juncture, I would like to say that the Prime Minister has seen it already, the Ministers for Infrastructure; the Minister for Energy has seen it when he was Minister for Provincial Government, the Ministers for Health, Provincial Government and MP for East Malaita, the former Minister for Infrastructure Development and the MP for Central Makira, the MP for Vona Vona have all seen the wrecks already and so I do not know who else is to see it, and the Member responsible for the constituency has already seen it too and now he is using Parliament to inform the Ministry. Otherwise it is out of sight, out of mind but I make it a point for you to look at it now. Thank you.

BILLS

The Customs Valuation Bill 2009

Bills – Second Reading

The 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009 (*debate continues*)

Mr WAIPORA: Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand first this morning to contribute very briefly to the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009. My other colleagues have already made their contribution and so I think it is my responsibility as the representative of West Makira Constituency to contribute to this very important bill.

Sir, before I go on, I want to express some of my disappointments because that side of the House is always empty. Today I was going to make a point of order that the House is not qualified to continue with meeting because it does

not have the quorum. I think we must be very serious because we are leaders of this country. No one tells us to go around and campaign in our own constituencies. It is our own voluntary decision to go around and campaign in our own constituencies so that people can vote us to come in here to represent them in this very, very important power house. This is the power house. This is where laws are made for the people of this country to guide them. And today we are intending to pass a law to expend tax payers' money in this country.

Mr. Speaker, when I look through the supplementary appropriation that we are dealing with now, it is a very simple budget which is not quite difficult to pass. I only picked up a few Ministries to comment on, and the first is the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has requested for some more money to top up the expenses for students studying overseas.

Sir, what I need to know is that we are cutting a number of students overseas and yet at the same time seeking more funds for students overseas. Mr. Speaker, terminating the scholarship of some students, about 100 students now is expected. It was expected because in the past many people have been voicing out how scholarships were awarded. There has been nepotism and favoritism in the award of scholarships. That is what happened. When we do not do things properly that is what is going to happen. If we do not follow rules that are laid down that is what is going to happen because the Bible says "Be sure your sin will find you out".

Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister of Education to improve the selection criteria. When I was a Minister and also an ordinary Member, I received a lot of complaints coming in from people. Many of us, many people have been victimized by the system because there was unfairness made on the selection of students. Some people just go in, forcing themselves to make their children go. This calls for improvement in the selection criteria on the award of scholarship in this country.

Another point I want to comment on regarding this issue is whether we are looking after our students overseas properly as expected. I say this because I got information that some students, for example, at the USP do not have any place to lay their heads. Some of them are still looking for places either to rent or whether they have rooms at the campus, I do not know. If this is true then it could be another contributing factor to making the morale of our students low and so they become frustrated and go around the city may be causing problems. Those are the few points I would like to raise about the Ministry of Education.

On the Ministry of Forestry, the timber rights hearings used to be the responsibility of area councils. When the area councils were abolished the responsibility was passed on to the provincial executive. One thing I see that is inconsistent here, and it may vary in different provinces is the rate charged for

the hearings. I think it is good for the government to come up with this so that there is only one rate for them because some of the judges who sit in during timber rights hearings in logging companies in Makira were overcharged by provincial executive members and public officers. I think they should only charge them allowances allowable under the condition of service of members of the provincial assembly and for public officers it must be allowances allowable in the General Orders. But what is happening now is not according to GOs and conditions of service. Some are even paid \$2,000 a day. I am just not talking out of the blue, but it is something that is happening to some of my people and they informed me that they were charged so much for each member and so how could they hold the timber rights hearing.

Sir, I do not know what the Cabinet came up with on this issue, but I think it is going to be addressed and whether you are going to put a standard rate for timber rights hearings, especially the allowances incurred during the process. However, it is very important. I talked to some of them in Kira Kira telling them that their charges are just too much. I told the public officers to look at the General Orders because they are not supposed to charge that much. The MPAs are supposed to look at the Parliamentary Entitlements Regulations which sets down MPs allowances and MPAs allowances.

Also if any money is derived from timber rights hearings, I do not think you should not receive it now but it should become part and parcel of the province's revenue paid into provincial funds so that officers and members who go out to do the timber rights hearings go back, fill up a form and make their claims for allowances. But at the moment what we know is that straight after the hearings they are paid on the same spot. I think those are some corruptions that are happening. This did not happen during my time because I was very strict on this and many provinces wanted to sack me for this, but I stood my principles and I stood for what I know is right.

On the Ministry of Provincial Government, I cannot agree anymore with the comments made by the Minister for Commerce. We discussed once and we agreed that the spirit of the provincial government has deviated. It deviated from the previous spirit of how to run provincial governments. Can you ask the provinces how many devolution orders have they already got? How many agency agreements have they come up with already? Because if you want any staff from the Ministry of Health you must make an agency agreement with the Minister of Health before the provincial executive can have power over them to exercise discipline on them. Most of the powers and functions in the Provincial government Act are not yet devolved. Tourism is not a devolved function, for example. Police is also not a devolved function and nor is justice. If those functions are required then an agency agreement has to be entered into, and how

many staff is required and how much money is required. That is how it works. Some of these services can be decentralized but if powers and authority is required to exercise discipline and so on, an agency agreement has to be entered into with staffs of the central government who are seconded to the provinces. At the moment if those in the provincial government want to scold a chief field officer or a chief education officer he will say that his boss is in the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture. There is a lot of work still to be done in provincial governments. They need to get their devolution order if they want to take the property of the central government and they need to enter into a lot of agency agreements if they want to take control of officers of the Central Government.

Mr Speaker, on the Ministry of Home Affairs, any system of election that is put in place is fine but we are having problem with registration of voters; we are having problem with it, and I humbly suggest to the honorable Minister to look at it. We have several polling stations and I think each person should be appointed to the polling stations so that he looks after that polling station, maybe a pastor. For example, and I am using my island as an example even though you might be tired of hearing me talking about my own island but that is what I am here for. If a polling station at Marou bay, for example, the church pastor of the church at Marou bay whether it is a SDA or SSEC pastor or priest there is the one who should be responsible of registering the people there and so on. The day of registration must be announced throughout the country. There must be announcement of the registration day throughout the whole country. It must be an announcement similar to the election day when we go for the election. The day of registration must also be announced like the election day. I believe if it is like that people will not complain. Today, the registration of voters is in a total mess. These are the points I have been thinking about. I think we have to reconsider registration of voters because many people today are having problems with it. If this is not changed, I can tell you that may be you should have won the election but you lost because your supporters are not registered. If we want the coming election to be fair and at a level playing field, then this must be looked into at this time.

Mr Speaker, on National Parliament, would you have noticed that I did not attend last Friday's meeting. I did not attend and debate that motion with you.

Hon Wale (interjecting): Why

Mr Waipora: I am going to tell you now why I did not attend. I am surprised, Mr Speaker, at why a special motion was moved for a junior officer? I cannot

play around with my Parliament. Even though you might be angry with me, I stand for what I believe in. What are you doing here? Where is phase one and phase two of Parliament? And where are the Hansard Reports? Are we going to make another special motion for the next person who comes? Do you know how much do the many advisors here earn? I know that one technical advisor of today, his salary is \$100,000 a month, and this is from money labeled under our heads as money coming here to help us.

Today if it was not for Taiwan, do you think your constituencies will receive any money? I am talking from my heart now. I have no fear and I am not afraid to say anything in here. We must not play around with the supremacy of our Parliament. Why do we not make special motions for the high commissioners who are going back? Why only for such an officer like that? I call him a junior officer. I am a Member and a leader of this country, who is talking right now.

The next point I want to raise before I sit down since I might be boring to you and you are now very angry with me is the PER issue which people are criticizing and ridiculing us so much about. I want you to think carefully about withdrawing it altogether because only swearing is left to be done to us. Mr. Speaker, if the government has not dealt with it yet, because I feel sorry for the Minister of Finance and the other Members as they are starting to pinpoint them. I think the responsible authority should reconsider this issue and think if withdrawing it. I cannot convince you because you have the powers under the Constitution and so it is up to you to look at this issue. But I am just expressing this as I am starting to feel sad about us. I do not know what the Papers are saying today but I think it is high time for the responsible authority to reconsider it.

Mr. Speaker, thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to express what is from my heart this morning. I thank the Minister of Finance for this supplementary appropriation bill moved last week as it is an appropriate thing to do. It is something that the Government and the Parliament is responsible to do, and so I want to thank him and the Government for bringing this supplementary appropriation. If you did not make it but we still will argue over it too. And so it is very good that the Honorable Minister of Finance has seen it fitting in bringing this Supplementary Appropriation Bill to Parliament for its blessing. I thank all colleague Members for listening to me expressing my heartfelt sentiments because that is what we are here for. If you heard what I said and you are angry, please think about yourself because this is where we throw mud at each other. With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I fully support the motion.

Mr. BOSETO: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given to me to share my very brief contribution to the debate of this 2009 Supplementary Appropriation bill 2009. Mr. Speaker, I also thank the honorable Minister for Finance who is the presenter and mover of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009. Mr. Speaker, I especially express my words of thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Accounts Committee for their critical and constructive assessment of this supplementary budget as well as for their positive encouragement for the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to further improve closer consultation with other ministries in the process of preparing the budget in order to properly and critically assess the necessity for additional funding submitted by the Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what have been said by previous speakers covered their debate on the supplementary budget of the government, which I believe is more than enough and so I must not try to repeat them. But let just say that judging this supplementary budget by the CNURA Government's 3R's, namely the first 'R' represents rich, the second 'R' represents 'range' and the third 'result'. Perhaps this supplementary budget fails to implement its first 'R' of public policy. The first 'R' - rich is interpreted as follows and I quote: *"The rich policy pertains to how far policies affect our people, people centred. In other words, policies should touch and positively affects the lives of ordinary people, not just the educated and well to do in the community"*.

Mr. Speaker, ordinary people, to me, includes all men and all women in our villages, the orphans, widows, the excluded and the marginalized and those who are at the periphery of our political centralized and globalize free markets. Mr. Speaker, these ordinary people including babies are already included in our economic gross estimates within our so called gross domestic products. Mr. Speaker, this is where policies can be merely written on volumes of papers and books but if there is no long term vision, goal and participatory commitment by all Solomon Islanders at the various different levels, they can become inactive and dead.

Policy programs and commitment but the best of all is commitment. Paul says faith, hope and love remains but the best of all is love in action. Jesus says that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love people. James says faith without actions is dead. Mr. Speaker, after saying that I noted with sympathy the Ministries whose submissions for additional funding may be for their essential or urgent project programs have not been included in this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. However, I still hope that there will be another supplementary appropriation bill for November/December sitting of Parliament. If so, then I suggest that those of us who have retired our allocation of the \$15 million for tsunami rehabilitation in our respective constituencies

should be given special consideration by the government to further submit our update report including additional funds for assisting tsunami rehabilitation phase II towards its completion. This must be included in the next supplementary budget in the November/December meeting.

Mr. Speaker, before I end these short remarks, I am happy to note that the Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Affairs maintains its rural people centred by asking an additional amount of \$7million to cover Members of Parliament who were unable to obtain their 2008 allocation of their rural constituency livelihood funds. Mr. Speaker, our South Choiseul constituency is one of these, and the Ministry is fully aware of this. As soon as this amount is passed by Parliament, do not over look us again.

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless our Parliament to remain our voters' parliament and not to be lobbyist's Parliament. With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion. Thank you.

Mr. SOPAGHE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also contribute to the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I also join other colleague Members to thank the Honorable Minister for Finance for tabling this supplementary budget to cater for line ministries for the remaining months ending in 31st December 2009. Mr. Speaker, I would be very brief but in doing so I have no reason not to support this supplementary budget.

Sir, in debating this bill I would like to raise some general concerns on this floor of Parliament. Sir, when I look through the 2009 Supplementary Budget, I fail to see any allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Sir, the concern here is because our farmers are still waiting for payment of their projects through the Ministry of Agriculture. Sir, may I ask the Ministry to clarify and update our farmers on this matter. Our cocoa exporters are also still waiting for funds under the 2009 Development Budget allocation of SI\$3 million and ask the government through the Ministry of Agriculture to release the funds so that it helps them at this time of financial difficulty to assist our exporters and rural producers.

Sir, as Chairman of the Commodities Export Marketing Authority, I believe the future economy of our country is putting our priority on productive commodities such as cocoa and coconut. Sir, as alluded to in my debate on the Constitutional Amendment Bill, every day you, yourself, Sir, can see truck loads of cocoa and copra down to the wharf for export. This shows our rural farmers are more involved in these two productive commodities. I therefore would like the CNURA Government to increase the allocation of funds for cocoa and copra in the 2010 Development Budget.

Sir, another concern I would like to raise here is to do with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development. Sir, the Ministry is allocating funds to some roads in our country of which some are new roads and some maybe upgrade and maintenance roads. Sir, some of us are trying our best using our RCDF to meet road maintenance, and this is not fair to us. Sir, my constituency is next to Honiara and is one of the constituencies contributing a lot to the economy of our nation, but I am surprised that our request for funding of our road maintenance was not acknowledged and acceptable by the Ministry. I, therefore, ask the Ministry to make some good recommendations before responding to the request of my constituency. I ask the government to allocate funds to meet roads that needs maintenance only. Sir, I am raising this matter so that my people understand and are aware that the maintenance of roads done in previous years was from RCDF funds and not funds under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development.

Sir, my final concern I would like to raise is that we have just celebrated our nation's 30th anniversary of our country. Preparations for the celebration at that time made our town very beautiful and a clean environment. Today if you drive from the KGVI School down to White River you will see yourself that people do not care and throw rubbish anywhere in our town. The concern here is that I think responsible authorities through the government should allocate funds to identify some areas in our town to start looking at making them beautiful and in a good and clean environment. I think we should start to identify Point Cruz area as a restricted area in our town from throwing of rubbish and make this venue beautiful and clean so that our good people would start to know and respect areas that are restricted from throwing anything that is rubbish. Sir, I think these are some of the general concerns I would like to raise in supporting this Bill. Mr Speaker, once again I beg to support this Bill.

Hon RINI: Mr Speaker, I thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to make concluding remarks on the Parliament's debate on the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009.

Mr Speaker, the Honorable House has debated the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009 intensively over the last few days and I have listened carefully and most intently to the contributions, comments and statements made by Honorable Members who spoke on this Bill. Mr Speaker, I thank Honorable Members who have spoken in favor of, and indicated support for the Bill. I must also thank Members who have spoken for their very objective and comprehensive contribution to the Bill. The debate has been very invaluable and enlightening.

Mr Speaker, several honorable colleagues have made a number of thoughtful and sensible suggestions for the Budget. I can assure this Honorable House that all suggestions will be closely analyzed and where practical implemented. It appears that a few honorable Members, I regret to end, have unfortunately misread and misinterpreted my speech and made unsustainable assertions or suggestions. Sir, some others have suggested proposed measures that are already part of the government policy and program for 2009 and beyond.

Mr Speaker, I wish also to take this opportunity to comment on some of the issues and contributions raised in the course of the debate in this honorable House. Obviously, I need also re-emphasize our approach more clearly for the benefit of some members of this House.

Mr Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to seek an appropriation from Parliament to cover expenditure already authorized by contingencies warrants in the first part of 2009 as well as to appropriate additional funds to ensure that government continues to deliver all its policies, programs and commitments. Sir, Parliament does not meet every second month of the year to enable us seek appropriation every now and then. The least we want is lack of appropriation by Parliament to be a constraint and hindrance to the delivery of all our policies, programs and commitments. I can therefore assure the House that the Government is fully confident that this Bill is both fiscally responsible and caters for delivery of its programs and commitments.

Sir, the honorable Member for East Choiseul and the Leader of Opposition has raised a number of very, very important issues during his debate on this Bill. Firstly, I must sincerely thank him for raising some very, very important points pertaining to budget management and the various instruments available to Government in the Public Finance and Audit Act to ensure that government operations and services continue. The point about subjecting virement and contingencies warrants provisions to tighter rules so as to addressing government priorities are well noted for possible review. In regards to various examples about the principles of public needs, some of these require some clarifications. In regards to the claim of under-budgeting for NPF contributions for teachers, I should like to point out that the responsible Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are fully conscious of this claim and are reassessing the Budget to verify this claim and any irregularities. At any rate, we are confident that the budgetary allocation item is fairly accurate and could be addressed with ease where necessary.

The second but very important point the Member for East Choiseul and the Leader of the Opposition raised is in relation to the reservations. Mr Speaker,

in relation to the reservations, they are administrative and management matters by nature and could easily be de-reserved in due time or where there is mounting pressure to ensure smooth delivery of commitment and services. The reservations could also be de-reserved when there is improvement in government finance. On this note, I wish to clarify that the Ministries do not need to bid for supplementary funds until the provisions for virement, and de-reservation of the ministerial budgets are fully exhausted. Mr Speaker, I would like to clarify this because a lot of ministries are taking this wrongly. The reservation does not mean we are cutting out the appropriations in their original budgets. The reservation is put in just to slow down expenditures. It is a management tool. For example, when the reservation of the first 10 percent was put in, the ministries were notified to slow down, but by the end of March we noticed that they have not slowed down and so we have to put in another 25 percent. The expenditures in the month of March were expended up to say May and June and that is the 25 percent reservation was put. This is just to slow down the expenditures of various ministries to cope with revenue. We made it very, very clear to ministries that any ministries that has any problems due to this reservation must come and consult us and we will look into their problems and we will de-reserve those heads. And this is exactly what we are doing to the Ministry of Provincial Government. They came to us saying that the 25 percent reservation is affecting their grants to the provinces and. They came to the Ministry of Finance and we de-reserve their heads. I would like to assure this Honorable House that only provincial grants are fully paid.

Mr Speaker, the points that was also raised was the shortfall in government revenue. We are anticipating that. This has been the very reason why the Government is applying control measures to control expenditures in the various ministries. But as I have said this can be de-reserve if there is pressure on heads and also heads will be de-reserved when government revenue improves.

Mr Speaker, let me assure the House that the Government will continue deliver on its policies, programs and commitments throughout this fiscal year and will not run out of funds as implied by other speakers. In our management of the 2009 Budget and government finances we will continue to strive for good quality expenditure and value for money.

Mr Speaker, there have been a lot of criticisms raised by some of the speakers but only time will tell and I want to re-iterate again that the government will continue to implement its policies and delivering of services to people of this nation and government will not be running of funds.

Mr Speaker, in conclusions, let me in-iterate that the Bill is responsible, forward-looking and just, and I call upon all Members of this Honorable House to support the Bill. With these few remarks, I beg to move.

The Bill agreed to

Mr Speaker: I was going to ask to move on to the next item on the agenda, which is adjournment, but I noted that the Honorable Minister of Tourism is in and whether or not he has got answers to Question No 57 if the honorable Member asks his question so that we can deal with the order of business today to complete it in that sense. But we have to do it properly, and may be honorable Acting Prime Minister will have to move a motion under Standing Order 81 to suspend Standing Order 13 so that we can deal with the question after we have done other business earlier. Does the Honorable Minister have the answers?

We have already postponed the motion but I have seen the Honorable Minister in Parliament and if the Honorable Member wishes to proceed with his question, if not we can postpone it as has already been suggested.

Mr Oti: Mr Speaker, I have not sighted the Provisional Order Paper for tomorrow as yet but if it is not overwhelming for this question to be added on to the list for tomorrow then I think it can be appropriately scheduled for tomorrow as oppose to us bending the rules. Thank you.

Hon Fono: Mr Speaker, I move that Parliament do now adjourn.

The House adjourned at 10.53pm