

FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2009

The Speaker, Rt. Hon Sir Peter Kenilorea took the Chair at 10.09 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; Foreign Affairs & External Trade; Commerce, Industry & Employment; National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace; Lands & Housing; Provincial Government & Institutional Strengthening; and Home Affairs and the Members for South Choiseul; West New Georgia/Vona Vona; East Honiara; East Are Are; North Malaita; Temotu Pele; South Vella La Vella; Temotu Nende; East Makira; North Guadalcanal; West Honiara, North West Guadalcanal, and Malaita Outer Islands.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Motion No. 5

Mr Speaker: Honorable Members, I wish to advise that the Honorable Member for Temotu Nende gave notice for this motion but he is unable to present it today. He had sought my permission to have another Member move it on his behalf.

Our Standing Order is silent on a situation such as this. Standing Order 27 provides for amendments to motions but not specify what can be done when a Member wishes another to move a motion on his behalf. This being a general motion and one of appreciation to a parliament staff member, I have granted the Member's wish in allowing another Member to move the motion on his behalf. I now call on the Deputy Speaker and Honorable Member for North West Choiseul to move Motion No. 5.

Mr KENGAVA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I move that this House expresses its appreciation of the services to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr Warren Cameron Cahill, Project Manger of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project since October 2005 and that this resolution be communicated to Mr Cahill by the Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Mr Warren Cahill was very instrumental in championing parliamentary strengthening in Solomon Islands. This was evidenced in his dedicated work with the National Parliament of Solomon Islands. His relationship with the National Parliament stems from his role as the Project Manager to the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project.

Sir, since taking up the role as Project Manager in 2005, Mr Cahill worked tirelessly to rejuvenate the Parliamentary Committees to ensure they could effectively undertake the work necessary to achieve their mandate of oversight and scrutiny.

Sir, Warren realized early on that if parliament was going to be effective in his role, it needed a strong Secretariat staff capable of supporting the Clerk and Speaker. Unfortunately, Parliament was not well resourced, especially following several years of ethnic conflict and so parliamentary committees met only on ad hoc basis.

Mr Speaker, with 20 years of parliamentary experience with the New South Wales Parliament and a strong background in committees, Warren initiated the need to recruit recent university graduates and train them in parliamentary service. In early 2006, five young graduates were recruited through the Parliamentary Strengthening Project to work as committee and research officers. With no experience in the workings of Parliament, the graduates were mentored by Warren. The first assignment was to provide support to the five Standing Select Committees, in a matter of months the graduates started gaining confidence and trust from Members thus forming a strong professional relationship, which enabled Parliament to effectively carry out its function.

Mr Speaker, at first, the work of the graduates was taken lightly but gradually with support from the Speaker and Members, the Committee began to table reports and make effective recommendations in Parliament. And with Warren's determination the graduates started to realize the importance of the role of Committees and Parliament.

Sir, by 2007 changes began to take shape within Parliament and impact other areas such as procedural support, information services, corporate and parliamentary education. With Warren's guidance and leadership, the National Parliament build a team environment that strived to ensure that the needs of all Members of Parliament were prioritized as well as administered professionally and on a timely manner where it was procedurally advice or just guidance on a particular matter.

Mr Speaker, throughout Warren's reign as Project Manager, our Parliament has witnessed positive changes and as a result the institution has grown and matured thus setting new standards at the same time addressing

challenges as they occur. Sir, on one occasion Parliament found itself in a situation where the Speaker was absent, the Deputy Speaker had just been appointed as a Minister, no Clerk and a relatively new Deputy Clerk, yet with Warren's experience and support from the Committee Secretariat Parliament was able to meet without disturbances.

Mr Speaker, the recent induction programs of Members as well as the Foreign Relations Committee Inquiry into RAMSI are a few indicators of how our Parliament has progressed. With this progress came a lot of interest and support not only from regional parliaments, but also within government departments.

Sir, through Warren's guidance, the Parliamentary Strengthening Project has contributed immensely to our Parliament, more so especially with our Parliament's current twinning arrangement with the New South Wales Parliament. As a result Members and staff have been able to benefit from training programs, short term attachments as well as projects such as the Review of the Standing Orders and installation of the Chamber Sound System.

Mr. Speaker, Warren is a strong believer in being open and accountable and to this end, he strongly promoted the concept of parliamentary committees, opening up their hearings to the media and the general public. As a result, all committees resolved to hold their hearings in public and broadcast their proceedings. Sir, for the first time also, the general public became acutely aware of the workings of Parliamentary Committees and also obtained an insight into the life of Parliament, its role, and how it affects their daily lives in terms of representation, oversight and law making.

Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretariat is privileged indeed to have worked with someone of such caliber. Warren's dedication and support to parliamentary strengthening has contributed not only to institutional reform but also to improvements across the whole of the public sector. Sir, Warren's work with the Parliament has been recognized around the region, with Warren and Members of Parliament receiving many invitations to share their experiences and successes with other parliaments.

Sir, Warren was an inspiration to all who worked with him during his tenure as Project Manager. He was a true campaigner in parliamentary strengthening and he will be sadly missed. Mr. Speaker sir, at this juncture it is only appropriate that Warren is formerly thanked and appreciated in this Chamber through this motion. With these, I beg to move.

(The floor is now open for debate.)

Hon. SOGAVARE: Mr. Speaker, I want to contribute in support of the motion just moved by the Member for North West Choiseul and also Deputy Speaker of Parliament. And the motion reads “That this House expresses its appreciation of the service to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill, Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project since 2005, and that this resolution be communicated to him.

Just to clear my mind, Mr. Speaker, I was actually wondering at first why we have to do this by way of a motion when we can easily communicate our appreciation without having to come to Parliament. But it dawned on me later that the motion is really in keeping with the way, parliament as a collective body, communicate its position on issues. In fact, Parliament does that by first of all agreeing to a position by way of a majority decision and then communicating that decision by way of resolution. While this is a strange way of communicating issues, but I guess let us not forget that we are special species of human beings called Members of Parliament. As a matter of fact we effectively lose our individuality and become members of a collective decision making system. We communicate in group and of course by resolutions. I need to make this position clear because we are subjecting something that Parliament is obliged to do as a matter of duty and an obligation that is intrinsic in our Solomon Islands customs irrespective of where you come from, and we subject that to a western style parliamentary debate that could invite views that would undermine the good intention of the motion. This is, I guess, one clear example of an issue that needs the consensus decision and position of Parliament. Unfortunately, the matter in which this motion wants Parliament to arrive at, the decision by way of a debate, and I guess the pertinent question is, is there a better way of fulfilling what this motion is asking Parliament to do?

Sir, I am saying this as I said because I do not believe that this is a matter that should be contested in an open debate but rather this is a matter that this Parliament believes in, and therefore a more appropriate way would be the issuance of an uncontested statement to Warren who deserves nothing short of an unreserved expression of gratitude by this Parliament on behalf of the people we represent in this House.

I am not saying this to cast doubt on the wisdom of this House to do the right thing. I am saying this because I believe this Parliament is obliged as a matter of duty to do exactly what this motion is requesting that this House expresses its appreciation of the service to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill, Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project since October 2005.

To do otherwise would render this Parliament nothing more than a heartless bunch of unthankful people, a description which this Parliament does

not deserve. It is in that spirit that I would like to contribute to the debate on this motion.

I think it is only fitting to say that Warren has been a tremendous asset to the ongoing development of this Parliament, an ultimately our parliamentary democracy. No one will deny that since his engagement under the UNDP funded Parliamentary Support Project we have seen tremendous lift in the standard of reporting and improvement in the functions of Parliament generally. This is very significant.

Parliament is the highest decision making body of the land. Whatever is decided in this House by way of laws and policies affect the lives of every citizen of this country and it would therefore be true to say that Parliament is the very embodiment of national survival and progress depending on how it handles national issues and the effectiveness to which sound advice formed the basis of the decisions made. It must follow therefore that the decision making process that leads to the making of these laws must be marked with high degree of professionalism accompanied by sound advice. I think for a long time the parliamentary processes were deprived of these services until, of course, the operation of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project, which Mr. Cahill skillfully managed. His work with the Parliamentary Standing and Select Committees, for example, as highlighted by the mover of this motion, has lifted the quality and depth of advice tendered to Parliament by these committees. This is just fitting because as observed earlier decisions made by Parliament have far reaching effects. And I am just wondering whether Parliament appreciates that fact. If not then we better do now.

I can speak as a member of two Parliamentary Standing Committees; the Public Accounts Committee and the Bills and Legislations Committee. The quality of support services that Parliament provides to these Committees are simply the best we have in many years. The quality of research work done by Parliament Staff to support the work of the Bills and Legislations Committee, for example, is just excellent. The Committee can, in fact, they have been confidently reviewing and advising Parliament on the contents and effects of the bills placed before it. Again, this is just manifesting the professional input of Mr Cahill to the work of these committees.

There were laws past in this House that I believe should not have been passed in Parliament had the benefit of the professional support services we have now. There were decisions made which should not have been made if Parliament had the benefit of timely information that would assist it in making informed decisions. Again, for a long time, Parliament was deprived of access to timely and relevant information that is necessary to assist the parliamentary decision making processes until, of course, the operation of the UNDP funded

Parliamentary Strengthening Project, which saw Members of Parliament and the parliamentary processes supported by information technology and of course access to internet services. Again, Mr Cahill is very instrumental in computerizing the parliamentary system and making parliament access to the world.

Sir, I think it can be observed that informed nature of debates and contribution in Parliament by serious politicians is only possible because they have access to the world of information in the internet services. This House should be thankful.

Sir, the commitment he demonstrated in the tasks that were entrusted under his engagement is simply admirable. I think an attitude to work worth emulating, and I need to elaborate on that. Mr Cahill came here to undertake a task. He came committed and I am sure we all want him to leave this country with the assurance that this Parliament recognizes his commitment. No one in this House will dare deny the simple fact about the level and quality of commitment demonstrated by Warren to his work. The evidences are everywhere. You just need to take a look at the changes and improvements that are taking place to agree with this statement. There is now greater appreciation, as rightly pointed out by the mover of this motion, by our people of what parliament is doing and what parliamentary democracy is all about. The televising and broadcasting live of Parliament meetings and meetings of committees help people to have better understanding of the role of Parliament. This is all happening under the Parliamentary Strengthening Project under the management and supervision of Mr. Cahill.

Allow me to side track a while, Mr. Speaker. Talking about commitment in general, what can this Parliament learn from that attitude to work? We need to appreciate that the apparent lack of commitment by Parliament to its given responsibilities is an insult to the tireless efforts of those who have committed their time to improving the support services of Parliament and to those who kindly donated funds to make that possible. At this juncture, I must acknowledge the funding support provided by the UNDP under which Mr. Cahill is engaged and, of course, the people of the Republic of China for their commitment to finance the extensions planned for Members Offices and, of course, this Parliament for approving Solomon Islands Government's contribution to the project. These are all commitments to make Parliament and the work of Parliament effective.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the professional Solomon Islands staff employed under the project who make a big difference to the level and quality of Parliament support services. I think it is also appropriate at this juncture that I take this opportunity to acknowledge your personal input

into formulating the long term development plan of Parliament, which resulted in the engagement of the UNDP and the recruitment of Mr. Cahill. These commitments and seriousness must be reciprocated by Members of Parliament. Amazingly, not by paying for these services but by our commitment and seriousness to live up to the ideals that the improvements and efforts we are talking about here are endeavoring to advance. These ideals form the very basis of the democratic system of government we adopted at independence. I am sure our old timers would love to be in Parliament now. They did not, in fact, have the benefit of access to the kind of technologies we have today but were effective and serious nonetheless.

I guess what I am trying to say here is if our predecessors were able to be effective and serious without the kind of technologies and support services we have today, I think we should be even more effective and committed. Can we confidently say that we are more effective and committed? This is a question that requires individual responses.

In saying that, I am surprised at the very low rate of use of the information technology offered by Parliament for Member's use. A visit to the Members' common room would tell you that the facilities were hardly used or used for other purposes. I am sure Mr. Cahill would want to leave this country knowing that his effort in getting the parliamentary systems to effectively serve the needs of Members of Parliament to be effective in their roles are not taken for granted. I would like to believe that nothing would please Warren more than knowing that his efforts are not wasted. We need to appreciate that the improved support services of Parliament are designed to make us effective. But that effectiveness needs the positive response of Members of Parliament because that effectiveness needs that response. We need to respond to the changes and improvements made. Failing that, we can have all the best services but they will fail to have any effect on the performance of Parliament because as observed earlier that effectiveness needs the positive response of Members of Parliament. As a matter of fact, our positive response would be the best gift that Members of Parliament can give to Warren. He would go home knowing that his efforts are being put to good and active use by Members of Parliament. He would go home knowing that the decisions of Parliament are supported by professionals that he helped put together. He would go home satisfied with a work well done. He will go home knowing that Solomon Islanders will learn to respect and have high regard for a parliament that they consider as responsible. There is nothing more frustrating for anyone who put a lot of effort in improving something only to find people taking less interest in making use of it. I would like to believe that we are more civilized to become victims of such an attitude.

I take this opportunity to join all Members of this honorable House to thank Warren for his great contribution to improving the functions of Parliament. I think Warren has taken Parliament to a new height. Our challenge now is to maintain and live up to that high standard. Accordingly, I totally agree that this House expresses its appreciation of the services to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill, Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project, since October 2005 and that this resolution be communicated to Mr. Cahill by the Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I support the motion.

Hon. FONONO: Mr Speaker, I will be contributing to the motion very briefly. And in doing so, I would like to thank the Deputy Speaker for standing in the place of the MP for Temotu Nende who had noticed the motion. At first I was also puzzled as to the whole intention of the motion, as expressed by the Leader of Opposition but having second thoughts on it, I think it is also fitting that Parliament as a collective body expresses its appreciation and support for Mr. Warren Cahill for his dedication and commitment under the project since it was launched some years back in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, during that time I was already a Member of Parliament and I noted very much the improvements done since then as highlighted very well by the Leader of Opposition in terms of information technology that Parliament now has, in terms of the standing committees that Parliament has and also the secretariat staffing that Parliament has in place now. I believe that such knowledge and skills have now been transferred to the local professional staff to carry on the work.

Mr. Speaker, whilst a lot of improvements have been done, one thing I failed to see since the program started is the absence of Daily Hansard reports, which I see is still a weakness in the system. During the first term when I came in, in 1997 technology was not here but we have Daily Hansard reports. I am just raising this as a concern that maybe the program should also look at improving the Hansard so that what Members of Parliament are saying in here must be corrected by Members of Parliament first before they are put down as Hansard records. There has been an absence of that as a system even though information technology and skills and IT have improved a lot, we are missing out on a very important area that the Parliament Secretariat should be improving on in terms of Hansard reporting. I fail to see that and it needs to be improved under this program.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to see professional staff we now have under the Secretariat Staff of the Parliament. I also believe we also have legal counsels for Parliament now. I have also noted that sometimes the advices they are giving

are in conflict with the advice of the Attorney General. I cited that in one of the recent bills, the Constitutional Amendment Bill and so who knows maybe in future we may end up in court on the advice of parliament in relation to the advice of the executive government. That is an area that shows the strength and improvement in parliamentary procedures and systems that we have. And so that is an area that I noted because there are conflicting interpretations of laws or bills that come before Parliament. That needs to be improved.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to dwell very much on improvements we have, but I would leave with us the challenge, especially for Parliament and the parliamentary staff. I say this because it has been a public service culture that when expatriate technical advisors are with us that we would work very hard. But when they leave our local officers do not normally take on the responsibilities as expected of them. It is very important there is continuity of what Warren has already done here in Parliament during his time. This must continue on. We still need that professional advice, we need that support, we the commitment of the local staff to continue in Parliament so that the high level of standard and performance continues and is maintained. Let us do away with the Public Service culture of none performance by local officers when expatriates are not there. We need to do away with that. We have all the confidence that we have qualified staff under this program who would continue with the work. This is a challenge before Parliament now that we have reached this stage, it is very, very important that continuity is maintained. Also improvements we are seeing in information technology here in Parliament are maintained. I say this because during our first term when we came in here, the internet was already up and running but Parliament was not accessible to internet and there were no computers for Members of Parliament. But under this program we now have computer labs for Member of Parliament and so it is very, very important that Members of Parliament have access to IT to do research. The internet services and website that Parliament has is producing a lot of good information to Members and so it is only important that Members of Parliament have access to those.

It is also interesting to note that parliamentary standing committees have improved a lot under the UNDP funded program for the Parliamentary Strengthening Program. With improvement in parliamentary standing committees, we have also seen for the first time the Foreign Relations Committee going really down to the provinces giving information and allowing people to participate in general discussions. We are now seeing people beginning to know and understand the role of Members of Parliament. It is very important that civic education through the Parliament set up would also continue to educate our people on the roles of Members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, those are the challenges I would like to raise under this debate. The first, of course, is to further revisit the Hansard report. It is very important over the years that Members have access to this. Some of us have noticed that there are no Hansard reports being produced, and may I ask why? This parliamentary strengthening project should also strengthen Hansard so that Hansard reports come out daily so that Members of Parliament who contribute to debates could check what is recorded because Hansard reports are compiled and become documents that people or even scholars can refer to as debates of the various houses.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, Mr Speaker, for your leadership and direction that since taking up the Speaker's post you have the plan and vision in allowing this program to come under your leadership and we have seen a lot of physical improvements. We hope that with additional physical improvement in terms of the parliament building, we would achieve the whole aim of improving infrastructures here in Parliament.

Also word of thanks must go to the development partners, especially the UNDP, RAMSI, the Republic of China, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and, of course, the Solomon Islands Government for seeing it fitting in contributing towards this parliamentary strengthening project, without which we would not have people like Mr. Warren Cahill.

Mr. Speaker, these are my remarks in supporting this motion that we express our appreciation of the services to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill, the Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project since October 2005 and that this resolution be communicated to Mr. Cahill by your good self, Honorable Speaker.

With these few comments, I support this motion.

Mr ZAMA: Mr Speaker, I will be very, very brief in my contribution.

Mr. Speaker, when God created the world in His time he created the North Pole and the South Pole. There was also the east pole and the west pole. Mr. Speaker, He created this world in all its goodness and fullness and it was a perfect world.

When I look at this motion this morning I was very saddened. I do not know whether to laugh or cry or to jump or lay on the floor or to walk out. Because this motion to me is a very uncustomary motion, and it is the first time that I see such a motion moved on the floor of Parliament to thank a particular individual who has contributed to Parliament and to this country. But that said, I go in line with the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Prime Minister have said in support of this motion.

When a motion is moved in Parliament, it is subjected to debate and in debating there will be those who would speak in support of the motion and there will be as usual where there is North Pole there is the South Pole. There would be people opposing this motion and so in the spirit of parliamentary democracy I stand to oppose this motion.

Sir, my reasons for not supporting this motion here is firstly because it is uncustomary and has not been heard of before. Whilst I see the good work done in Parliament under this project and this person, there are appropriate venues and means of conveying our appreciation and acknowledgement to this person. What I would rather see is for that acknowledgement and statement to be coming from your chair than in the form of a motion. On that note I do not support this motion. It is not because I do not want to thank the Project Manager but just because this is the inappropriate form of doing it on the floor of Parliament. If it is on the floor of Parliament then it must come from you in the form of statement and acknowledgement.

In the style and custom of Solomon Islands, if you go back to our village in Solomon Islands, yes they make acknowledgements in church and may be in gatherings and over a feast, and that is why I will thank my friend later on today outside when we have the refreshment, and that is customary. That is when I will shake his hand and say all the good things he has done and all the bad things he has done too. I mean we are living in an imperfect world and we must be realistic. We are living in an imperfect world. Before in God's time it was perfect but after God's time and now men's time we are living in an imperfect world.

Mr. Speaker, I will thank my friend, Mr Warren at lunch time over the food because he is my very good friend. He has given much to people, individual Members of Parliament and through his assistance he has done a lot in improving parliamentary systems, procedures and a lot of other things. And it is not only to Members of Parliament but also the staff that he has worked with and worked along with. This man is a very good man and I only wish his contract would be extended. That is the only sad part. I am very sad that he is leaving. I am very honestly sad that he is leaving. I am hoping that his contract is extended.

I am pretty sure that those who work alongside him in the office, outside of the office, at home, during the day, during the night, sharing his time in the office and at home will surely miss him. And for that I just want to register here that, yes we will surely miss him. But may be one day we will probably meet somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said there is no need for this motion to find its way to the floor of Parliament because there are appropriate venues of doing this.

The only appropriate time, as I can see it, you have invited me to lunch and that is where I will express my gratitude and appreciation to him between 12.00pm to 2.00pm today where outside of Parliament has been prepared. That is the proper place, the proper time and the fitting venue for us to thank our best beloved friend.

Other than that I thank the MP for Temotu Nende who initially was going to move this motion has pulled out and instead asked the Deputy Speaker to move this motion. I believe that everybody, those of us on the Opposition Bench, those on the Government Bench and those on the Independent Bench would want to share with the Deputy Speaker on this motion, but for purposes of the record I raise my concern that in the future, please do not move any more motions to thank people who will be coming under this project because it is their job, they are paid to do it and the appropriate place to thank them is over lunch and over food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. SOALAOI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this motion. Firstly, I must thank the Member for North West Choiseul and the Deputy Speaker for moving the motion on this floor of Parliament giving us the opportunity to express our appreciation to the project manager for the assistance given to parliament, especially Members of Parliament in ensuring that we discharge our duties effectively and efficiently. I must say that I agree with what the Leader of Opposition and the Deputy Prime Minister have said except what the Member for Tetepare has said in that I find it really difficult to agree with what he said. But, of course, as individual Members, you have the right to say what you want to say as the representative of your people.

I believe it is customary for us to express appreciation to anybody who assisted us in one way or the other in achieving our goals. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Parliament, it is important that we as a collective body resolve to express our appreciation as a group and not as individual Members.

I also believe the reason why this motion is here is for us Members of Parliament to individually express our appreciation based on our observations of how Parliament has grown over the years, especially since the project began in 2005. Mr. Speaker, one of the wishes of our people is to see this Parliament grow and also Members of Parliament to function effectively. I believe when we talk in here our people would want to see us talk on subject matters and they want to see us function as Members of Parliament. I can say here that after the project we have seen improvement in the way Members of Parliament contribute to debates. We have seen improvement in the way this Parliament functions, especially with regards to standing committees. I must say here that this Parliament is now regarded as one of the fastest growing parliaments and one with effective

parliamentary standing committees in the region. This is evident in the number of invitations given to our staff and also our Members of Parliament to share their experiences during CPA meetings or the Commonwealth Parliamentary sessions and meetings. I was fortunate to have been invited two times to represent Parliament in one of these meetings and given also the opportunity to share my experience working with standing committees as a former chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, a member of the Public Accounts Committee and also a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee. Our neighbors, especially our other new parliaments in the region are looking at us to assist them in their committee systems. I believe without the assistance given to us by the project manager and also the UNDP as a whole, we could not have come this far at the pace we are going.

Mr. Speaker, I must say here that we must commend the Project Manager and the UNDP, not only for the professional assistance given to our staff and Parliament but especially for the financial assistance given to the work done to improve our Parliament. You yourself, Mr. Speaker, will agree with me that you have seen a lot of improvements in our parliamentary system since October 2005.

Some of us, Mr. Speaker, are fairly new in Parliament but we have also observed these improvements. We also listened to parliament debates too in the past, and we hear Members of Parliament that come from this planet talking about issues relevant to other planets. But now I must say debates are much more guided and Members of Parliament in this Chamber are beginning to debate on subject matters. We are seeing a gradual removal of mudslinging from this honorable chamber where Members of Parliament throw rubbish at each other on this floor. This no longer evident in this chamber because things are done in a more professional way other than rubbishing each other on this floor of Parliament. I believe this is partly due to the work done by the strengthening project in parliament by the UNDP, especially under the dedicated leadership of the Project Manager, Mr. Warren Cahill.

Mr. Speaker, I must also commend our staff for working together with the Project Manager and the UNDP in ensuring the project achieves its objectives. I must assure this honorable chamber that we now have a team of dedicated men and women who are supporting the functions of this Parliament. You can see this if you go into the library and also the computer lab. You will see that we have a team of professional staff who are lawyers, computer specialists and so on. These officers are qualified people in their own areas but without the training to work as a dedicated team in supporting parliament under this strengthening project, we will continue to have problems that we used to have in the past where qualified people sit around doing nothing, Mr. Speaker. And so I must thank our local staff for working together with the Project Manager. I am

sure when Warren leaves, this team will continue to work and I am also sure this project when it comes to an end, it only means that we will go into another form of assistance may be in a different form. As we know Mr. Speaker, the end of something brings the beginning of another thing. I believe he is not leaving with everything. I hope our staff have learned a lot from him and I also believe our local staff can carry on the work left behind by the Project Manager.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I must reiterate here that our Parliament is now an effective Parliament because of the strengthening project under the UNDP of which Mr. Warren Cahill is the project manager. I must thank him for his tireless efforts in ensuring this Parliament grows and becomes mature. The comfort we have now is whenever we go to regional meetings and international meetings this parliament is referred to as one of the fastest growing and effective parliaments in our region.

Mr Speaker, like I have said I have been to a number of meetings where I was invited to share my experiences working with standing committees in this Parliament and I must thank Warren for this. I know he chose me because of my need to grow and so I can tell you that I have grown and I will make sure that I share this experience with my other colleagues who are listening on the floor of Parliament. I am already a grown up man but I am referring to our role as members of Parliament.

I also believe this nation has a bright future because of people like us who still have a long way to live and serve this nation through this Parliament and the work and the assistance given to us by the UNDP will go a long way in helping this Parliament function effectively and deliver what it should deliver to this nation. We do not want to have Members of Parliament who do not know what they are here to do. I believe all of us are here because we want to build this nation as national leaders and then also to assist our constituencies improve their livelihood.

I have said a lot but I must once again thank Mr Warren Cahill who is also a good friend of mine. I must say that the New South Wales Parliament will be pleased to have him back. I have heard a lot about him in the New South Wales Parliament during two of my meetings with the CPA. It is sad that he is leaving but I hope he is leaving behind a lot for us to work on.

With that, I support the motion that this House expresses its appreciation of the service to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands of Mr Warren Cameron Cahill, Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project since October 2005 and that this resolution also be communicated to Mr. Cahill by your good self. With these, I thank you.

Hon. TOZAKA: Mr Speaker, I would like to contribute to this motion to say thank you and goodbye to Mr. Cahill. I will not indulge in the debate on the appropriateness of the motion, but I trust this is a motion brought before the House by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and I am sure he has gone through the procedures and that is why it is here on the Order Paper this morning and I absolutely support it. I am speaking this morning on behalf of the Public Service as a whole in Solomon Islands.

Mr Speaker, I had the opportunity of working with Mr. Cahill as the former Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, and I can attest not only to his knowledge of parliamentary procedures but his love for the institution of Parliament and his commitment to the development of this Parliament and his selfless desire to impart the same degree of passion to the Clerk and the staff of Parliament.

As has been stated by the Acting Prime Minister as well as the Leader of the Opposition and my colleague Minister of Health, Mr. Cahill, as we know became the Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Project in 2005. His primary task was to manage the project with the principle objective of strengthening the institution of Parliament and parliamentary governance in Solomon Islands.

Today we, the Members of this House, cannot deny the changes we are seeing in the way Parliament now operates. Mr Cahill was instrumental in appointing local graduates into new and purposely established positions in the Parliament Office, and they are also sitting up there to join us to say goodbye to him. These graduates were engaged to learn how to support the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Speaker and Members of Parliament in carrying out what the traditional parliamentary functions and the success of their endeavor is clear today.

When we talk about parliament today, we talk about yourself, and that is a Speaker that is more capable in his capacity to serve. A Clerk that is more confident in her work and her ability to provide to the Speaker the kind of support the leader of this House requires. Committees that now have the capacity to better perform their functions of scrutinizing the work of government. Members that now have the capacity to effectively undertake the responsibility to represent their people in this House. Staff of Parliament that not only serve this House but have the privilege and opportunity to learn the operations of Parliament and government from the platform on which they stand.

Mr Speaker, there are many styles of leadership. Some lead from the front, some lead from the back and others lead from within and amidst those that

are responsible. Mr Cahill has ability to understand the situation and adopt the style of leadership more suitable for the time being. Mr Cahill leaves behind a well capable staff that are better taught, better trained and better prepared to take on the challenges that come in serving this institution. As my colleague, the Minister for Health has stated, we would like our Parliament in Solomon Islands to become the best, the very best in the South Pacific Region, and I think we are now heading in that direction. This Parliament as an institution through the various programs and projects we are implementing in here through your leadership and your administration, this Parliament is becoming a model in the South Pacific Region. I congratulate the very good work that this person that we are saying goodbye to him has contributed to this improvement. Mr. Cahill leaves behind the legacy that leadership is about the ability to develop clear visions of corporate goals and personal ambitions. It is about the ability to impart the same degree of passion to serve this country in this House. It is the desire to share experiences and the ability to inspire those around you.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion the quality of a manager will be rightly or wrongly judged by the quality of those whom he is responsible for. The exceptional quality and standard of work displayed by the secretariat that other colleagues have also spoken very highly of that Warren has helped built and mentored in the last four years is testament to the nature of this individual and his commitment to this institution and the people that serve this nation with you.

Once again, on behalf of the public service in Solomon Islands, I would likely to sincerely express my appreciation and thanks to Mr. Cahill for a job well done. I wish you all the best in your endeavors, in your new posting in the future. With these few words I support the motion.

Hon. WALE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to add my voice to the chorus of gratitude and praise for the work of Mr. Cahill here in Parliament.

Sir, I do not understand the sentiments expressed by the Member for Tetepare but perhaps that too is testament to the effectiveness of Mr. Cahill's work in raising the ability of Members of Parliament to think independently and to question things, and so that in itself is not necessarily bad. His reason of opposing this motion is that it is uncustomary and unheard of in the past; it has never been done in the past. Unfortunately, if we were to apply those two criteria to all motions and bills that come before this House, we may reduce the number of business to be transacted by this House to about possibly less than 10%. And so on this matter, the better part of reason overcomes the reasons that he gave in opposing this motion.

Sir, this is the people's parliament. Even in jurisdictions that do not exercise a democracy as free as like us, they have bodies at the apex of society

that makes decisions for and on behalf of people. Those bodies still are the people's bodies whatever they are called. I supposed the question of legitimacy or the lack of it is what hinges on whether people participate to compose, construct and put together that body. And so in our case, through elections, people participate and elect Members of Parliament and they have certain expectations of parliament, expectations that are very clear in the constitution, very clear in our laws but also beyond that expectations of ethical conduct, expectations of performance standards when we are Members of Parliament. Because parliament is the people's parliament we can expect nothing but the best from it. We want parliament to be the people's parliament to function and to operate at its best.

Sir, also because we inherited the Westminster system or form of government we have three arms of government, and parliament is one important arm of government and its independence is very important. But we know that in any Westminster system the independence of parliament is always vulnerable to being overwhelmed by a stronger executive when it wants to flex its muscle and gather to itself what could become unbridled power. Because in a Westminster parliamentary system numbers in parliament are almost always with the executive government, and so the independence of parliament is an important aspect of our system that we need to protect, advance and strengthen. It is also important because of the expectations of our people that parliament is the highest accountability institution on the land. We have other offices that serve parliament in that role. We have committees, standing committees and special select committees that help parliament to take parliament to the people, as was the case recently with the Foreign Relations Committee where people engage with parliament in that form. Also parliament through the committees can look at bills, look at constitutional amendments, look at reports that come and enquire into matters that it thinks is fitting for parliament to consider and so it enhances the independence of parliament from the executive and this is part of fulfilling the accountability function of parliament to hold the executive government to account and other arms of the executive government, the statutory bodies and any institutions or bodies that exist in this country trying to serve this country comes under the inspection of parliament.

It is precisely because this is the people's parliament that people have high expectations of it. It is precisely because the independence of parliament must be protected and advanced. It is precisely that parliament as the highest accountability institution on the land is an important objective to advance that it is important that parliament is rendered the best in terms of administrative, legal and secretarial support. This, I think, is where the UNDP project comes in and the role that has been played by Mr. Warren Cahill has been first rate.

We are closer today to having this parliament being the first rate in terms of support that is given to it. What we do with that support is up to those of us who are Members of this house. But the support that we are given cannot be faulted on any grounds whatsoever, and this is thanks largely to Mr. Cahill's efforts, commitment and professionalism and those staff that he coached, mentored and trained to take over this role

The people's parliament is functioning better, it is more effective and its committees are functioning with much greater independence and robustness. The people's parliament has been able to transact more business and we see that the output of the secretariat staff has been professional, has been nothing short of the best we have seen in many years. Of course, I have just come in but I have had much to do with politics for many years and I am familiar with the kind of support rendered to Parliament and parliamentarians over the years. The departure of Mr. Cahill is good in the sense that now after all his years of professionalism and commitment to the people's parliament and to the people of this country, it will allow those he has mentored to raise to the challenge and continue with the legacy he is going to leave behind of professionalism, of commitment and of service and effectiveness in service at that. Because the people will not reduce their expectations of their Parliament, therefore, this Parliament also must not reduce its expectation of the professionalism and commitment on those who have had the privilege of working under Mr. Cahill and have the duty to carry on that legacy he is leaving behind to show to the people of this country what their parliament can do in serving this nation.

Sir, I think it is very fitting that this motion comes before the house so that the house together collectively expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the work Mr. Cahill has done and to recognize that the house today how it was able to dispense with its business has been positively and substantially affected by the contribution of Mr. Cahill. And so we must stand and salute this individual for the contribution he has made.

I think the Standing Orders are silent on this but really we should stand up and sing a chorus. The SSEC is very good at this, and I am sure there is an appropriate chorus that we can together sing to express our attitude as we appreciate the contribution that Mr. Cahill has given to us. I think the acting Prime Minister is going to sing the chorus at lunch and so I am going to leave chorus aside. I talked about chorus and made the acting Prime Minister to remove his dark sunglasses which he wears when he is scared of the Member of Tetepare opposing this motion.

I think it is Parliament's hope that the benchmarks standards that have been set by Mr. Cahill and his staff will be safeguarded and that your office and that of the Clerk will continue to be alert and vigilant in ensuring those standards

can only be bettered and that we do not go back to them. With these few thoughts, Mr. Speaker I support this motion.

Hon. GUKUNA: Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a very brief contribution. First of all, I would like to agree with the opening remarks made by the Leader of Opposition. Mr. Speaker I was not going to contribute to this motion because I thought that appreciation is something we should not debate. It is something that should come from within us and I believe it is not a subject for debate. We subject it to debate and that is why we have comments from the Member of Rendova/Tetepare, which is a bit different. But I would forgive him because he always wants to be different. Yesterday he said that I boycotted Parliament because I disagree with the budget. That is not totally true. I did not have any conversation with him and I left to catch up with a delegation from the Western Province.

I also want to correct one thing he also said today that there is an east pole and a west pole. No, this earth has no east pole and a west pole. He, however, said something which is right in that there is a north pole and a south pole but there is no east pole and no west pole.

On this motion, as I have said, I totally agree with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of Opposition and the sentiments also expressed by my other colleagues about this motion. It has given us the opportunity to express our appreciation through a statement from you to him or may be over lunch if debating this motion is something to add on to that, and that is the sole reason why I stand to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Cahill for the work he has done for this Parliament.

The truth is that nearly half of us coming in here came in with no idea what Parliament is in terms of in service before 2006. For that reason it is a little bit difficult for me to compare whether there was really any improvement in Parliament or Parliament was like this since before. What I can say is that we came in and found it very easy to pick up things. As we came in it was easy for us to join the debates, it was easy for us to raise points and it seems very easy for me, particularly to join those who have been here for a long time and seems to me, in my interpretation, that we are following very well. It is the ease of being able to pick up things in Parliament now that led me to believe, and from what my colleagues have said that I believe there have been some very significant improvements in terms of the proceeding of this Parliament.

It is so easy that you can be the chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee without being a lawyer or you can be the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee without any background in public financing. Of course, I served as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee too. I went in with

without any prerequisites, without any information or directives whatsoever, but I went in and did very well according to my own judgment.

I moved two motions previously. The Member for Tetepare was the chairman but he did not move any motion. I went in during my three months and I moved three or four motions, and when he came in he just moved the motions. He is an accountant but he did not do it. But my point is that it seems very much to me that it was very easy for me to pick it up and you do not have to be professional in those areas to be able to assist wherever you can, and as I said I believe that was because things have been made very easy for us and I also believe that Mr. Cahill played a big part in leading this Parliament in a positive direction.

As the Minister for Education has said, and I quite agree with what he said, with Cahill leaving, it gives us the opportunity to put to test the strengthening that he has helped to build in this Parliament. The onus of doing this comes down to the professional staff that he has trained within this Parliament. We want to believe their abilities but only time will put them to test. That is the only way to test, and at the end of the day we will see whether they have improved, whether they have stood up to the challenges in maintaining the strength, carrying the program forward. That is only when we will tell in the next few years. And for this I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UNDP for meeting the costs that have enabled Mr. Cahill to come here to help strengthen this Parliament. I hope that is not a deliberate judgment that this program ends. I hope they are ready to continue with it if they see it fit. But I would like to take this opportunity now to thank the UNDP for seeing it fit to finance the involvement of Mr. Cahill in this important job, in the important task of strengthening, assisting this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is my short contribution and I would like to thank again Mr. Cahill and wish him all the best in his future endeavors, whatever he does in life I hope he does well as he has done for us in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker: Honorable Members, I do not want to stifle your contribution of appreciation but we do have another program outside. I have seen two Members standing up, and so we will give them the opportunity to be the last speakers.

Hon. SOFU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acknowledging the Minister of Infrastructure Development to make a very short contribution on this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I was not intending to speak but some developments that are taking place here in Parliament relate and connect to the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and that is why I see it fitting for the Minister of Infrastructure Development to talk a bit on this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Deputy Speaker, the Member of Parliament for North West Choiseul for seeing it fitting in bringing this motion to the floor of Parliament for us to debate. To our people who are listening in, this motion is just like our custom of thanking someone who has done something good for us and has been living with us and is ready to leave and so we must thank him. Mr. Speaker, in this case as a government I also want to thank Mr. Warren for the good work he has been doing during his time with us here.

Mr. Speaker, the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project under the leadership of Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill has boosted the performance of various offices here in Parliament. I just came in and I started to realize that through this project we have in Parliament a number of local expertise that are supporting established parliamentary committees and the Parliament Office has real manpower. The manpower that is required for this very important office is now available at this time. We have witnessed the recruitment of graduates who are now working in this very important office to help Parliament deliver services, high quality services for Members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is for us, it is for this House to express its appreciation for the good things the Project Manager has been doing for Parliament. And so I stand here on behalf of my staff, and my officers of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to also join others in thanking the great work that Mr. Cahill has been doing for Parliament. I believe this project has brought in the right person with a lot experience and knowledge and was able to make improvements here in Parliament.

Sir, the improvements in Parliament now is even making Members of Parliament starting to enjoy parliament sessions and debates. Mr. Speaker, we always have reports provided to us for our study so that we understand the business of parliament and it guides Members of Parliament in their contribution to issues and bills in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank your office for seeing it fit in having this kind of program here in Parliament. Without you, Mr. Speaker, I do not think this project would have eventuated. But because of your wisdom in seeing it appropriate of having this project, you have done so. I would like to salute you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with these few remarks I also join my colleague Members of Parliament in supporting this motion.

Mr. TANEKO: Mr. Speaker, I too when seeing this motion this morning I was thinking that the Speaker himself on our behalf should deliver the appreciation speech to Mr. Cameron Cahill, the Project Manager. But listening to all the appreciations that have made in this motion, I would also like to share a very

short and very brief remark. I think the appreciation here for a man such as Mr Cahill, the Project Manager for the improvement of this House is because of his experience for the last 20 years in the New South Wales Parliament. Mr. Speaker, the professional experiences that he brought and shared to Parliament Office, to parliamentarians and staff is evidenced in a lot of changes taking place within Parliament itself that we are now seeing.

Mr. Speaker, before coming here, before accepting the job here in our country, I think he has a heart by saying yes and accepting to come here to pour out his experience to a nation that is in need of development. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank and acknowledge the UNDP for its support in strengthening this project. There is lot for the future of this Parliament, and Mr. Warren Cameron Cahill has a lot of experience to improve the future of this Parliament. As a committee member in two standing committees; the Parliamentary House Committee and the Bills Legislation Committee, I also benefited from a lot of his experiences given to staff and Members of Parliament. Some have expressed that they are new in this House when they came in. When I came in I knew nothing about the Standing Orders. And now having working closely with such a man with a lot of experience and input in raising the level or standard of our Parliament, I just want to give my gratitude and appreciation to what he has done and what he has given to Parliament.

The future of Parliament entirely depends on us leaders. This is an input given by somebody, which must be carried on. The Parliament staff, the administrators, the lawyers and all who are privileged to learn from such person will continue to improve the future of this Parliament.

Sir, I also believe that having taken those experiences, we are also thinking of extending this House in future. We will have offices in future. Someone has mentioned that those computers there have not been used. May be we are scared of using them or maybe we do not know how to use them, I do not know. But you could hardly see any MPs using the computers there. Some of us may have computers in our offices, I am not sure. But there is a lot of improvement in IT and the communication system. And that is all part of this strengthening project where someone with a lot of experience, someone who is known outside the world has communicated on our behalf, has negotiated on our behalf and has brought in all those support through this project is seen by all of us here in Parliament. We have seen a lot of changes taking place in the presentation of papers. The presentation of papers as we can see in the House is well presented. This is also one of the evidences. When we first came here the microphones were not up to standard. Now you do not have to touch the microphone, you just stand up and speak. When we first came in we had many problems with the

microphones. We thank the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project for improving the system, and there is a lot more to come.

I believe Mr Cahill will always remember what he has put into this House. He will still be a partnership to this project in continuing his relationship with the Solomon Islands Parliament. I believe the staffs that have close working relationship with him have learned quite a lot from him. One thing I would like to express is that when he gets back to his country, I am sure he can arrange for some more training for our Solomon Islands graduates for attachment overseas. That is part of it. The future never stops here until we die. That is the door way of the relationship between the Solomon Islands Parliament and the New South Wales Parliament or whichever country he will go to.

Sir, as I said I will contribute very briefly and would just like to thank him for what he has done and for his great input to Parliament that we are seeing a lot of changes in the house today. The information system enables our students to come in here and do their research. I believe in future we are going to have our own university in Solomon Islands and there is need to have the IT system further improved. Somebody has already made the input that we must continue to carry on.

Sir, I thank you also for your vision you have in bringing the UNDP Strengthening Project. Let me say here that partnership is a spirit of ownership. Someone from afar has brought forth blessings to this nation. The legacy that he left behind must be owned by us, whether it is in material, spirit or voice we have to keep it. It is not good that someone out there brings in the blessings and comes to improve the systems here, but at the end of the day the Solomon Islands spirit does not own those things but destroys them. We have problems with our people because our people come in here and destroy these things. We have to remind ourselves of this in this motion. That is the message.

Members, you might laugh at this man but that is the spirit he has because someone has spent his tax payers' money to bring in all these IT systems, and so we have to own this parliament. We are the leaders and we must be like a beacon. The captain, when entering the harbor, has to be guided by the beacon to direct the vessel to arrive at the right port otherwise the ship is wrecked. I am speaking because we are saying thank you in here, but if all of a sudden what he brought in through the UNDP strengthening project, the spirit of another country's blessing for this Parliament is destroyed after three months by leaders or whatever is something that we ought to think about. We might be laughing but this is serious. Blessing is blessing whether in knowledge or whatever. Someone in here, the lecturers who have spent five or six years to obtain your degrees and doctorates and whatever, someone inputs knowledge within four or six years to him and he has been trying to pass on that knowledge to you within

a certain period of time. Can you see that knowledge is receivable whether it is one or two weeks or three years or five years? When someone shares his vision to you, you have to receive it whether you like it or not. That is knowledge because knowledge is receivable. Whether you have degrees or whatever but when someone is talking to you he wants to be like himself to you, he wants to input knowledge to you and that is why he shared his visions to you.

Sir, maybe I am taking very hard but what is next? This is the thing. By being strengthened under the supervision of this man who is leaving us, we might say it is good that he leaves or someone might be happy and someone might not but what he has put in here is the thing that we will remember. We must thank him and so on behalf of my people, as their Member of Parliament in here I want to thank Mr Cahill. I can say that when I first came in there has been a lot of improvements to the Clerk, the staff and yourself Mr Speaker, there have been a lot of changes and this is under the supervision of Mr Cahill. Without your support of Mr Mr Cahill, the Project Manager, we would not have reached this stage. The papers as seen are well presented every morning when we come into the Chamber. Those papers prove to us there is a lot of change. Those information papers are professionally presented.

Sir, may you give my appreciation and my thank you to the Project Manager who is going to leave us. I thank him for a job well done that he is left with our supporting staff. It is now their business to carry on the good work he has shown to them so that we will continue to reign and rule in our Parliament for the future of Solomon Islands. I am sure it is going to be extended. We just passed the bill to have 70 Members of Parliament. I am sure in future Members will have offices and they will have computers in their offices. It would be even better to have our own lawyers. I thank you for giving me this time to make my small contribution. It may not be fitting but I see it as very fitting to thank him for what he has done and what he has given as his experiences to Parliament. Thank you.

Hon. LILO: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for mistakenly picking on me and so I have to say few words on this motion. Yes, I support the motion. I also shared the sentiments that have been so eloquently expressed by other colleagues who have expressed very good and wonderful words of appreciation and recognition for the services of Mr Cahill since he came here in 2005 under the UNDP Project. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have never served in any parliamentary committee so that I could have worked first hand experience with Mr. Cahill since 2005 when he came. But I do participate in seminars and workshop that the UNDP and Parliament have organized and I can say that those workshops and seminars have been very, very successful and we all can give credit to Cahill for the advice

and leadership he provided in conducting those seminars and workshops here in Parliament.

In saying this, I might just twist a bit that instead of thanking Warren here I should also thank the UNDP for selecting this person or this candidate. I think this shows that the UNDP has the best system of recruitment by attracting the best candidate for the work of this nature. I think we should continue to encourage UNDP to continue to do that. I am sure the UNDP will still find a best candidate to take us further into the next stage of this program. Not forgetting your good self too, Mr. Speaker; the leadership that you have also jointly provided with the UNDP in picking the right candidate to lead this program. It might be too early for us to say that this is the end of the project and I think there should be another stage of this project so that we move forward in strengthening our very young parliamentary democracy in Solomon Islands. We are only 30 years old and it would be wrong for us to try to equate ourselves with those that have gone through 100 or 200 years of parliamentary development. We are just 30 years, and so let us not think that this should be the end of the program. We should take it to the next stage and move forward.

Challenges and some of the inherent binding constraints that we will still continue to face will still remain challenges that we are going to face as we move forward in trying to improve and enhance the development of parliamentary democracy in Solomon Islands and therefore I think it is not yet right for us to say that this would be the end of this program but we should bring it to the next stage. And we can only leave that into your best hand, Mr. Speaker, to decide on the next stage of this program moving forward.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I also thank you for giving this very wonderful invitation to join you at lunch today to say thank you again to Warren of what we normally would do that after talking it is feasting and sharing and saying good things to each other. Thank you so much for this invitation, Mr. Speaker, I will definitely join you at that luncheon to say goodbye to our friend Mr. Cahill.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, thank you once again for wrongly picking me but I am back again to say my bit and I support the motion.

Mr. Kengava: Mr. Speaker, in my brief speech of reply I would like to thank all those who contributed to the motion, especially for the understanding and support from the Acting Prime Minister, thus confirming the government's recognition of Warren's valuable service to Parliament and the need to further improve the project. Secondly, for the sound and strong support from the Leader of Opposition, the MP for East Choiseul and of course the Ministers and Members of Parliament who recognized the value of this motion and contributed

genuinely to it. On a personal note, I also wish to acknowledge Warren and the secretariat service for guiding me during my first days as being Deputy Speaker of this Parliament and having to preside over this Parliament during your absence early in 2008.

Sir, it is true that this motion may appear to be first of its kind being moved on the floor of this Parliament and is also non customary to some. However, if we look at the motion of sine die, sorts of appreciation were raised during debate on that motion and so I think it is fitting that this is taken from the context of the motion of sine die, this is a special motion of appreciation.

Sir, whilst I appreciate those who may have some doubts on this motion, I believe that the Member of Tetepare is really finding it hard to quickly grasp changes that are taking place in Parliament. Or maybe he just wants to be different from the rest. Sir, the strengthening program under the UNDP does not end where Warren left. That is what all of us have expressed. But I think Warren has successfully taken Parliament to a new level and therefore shortfalls raised during the debate on this motion are areas I see as needed to be taken up further for improvement. It is now up to us to advance Parliament further from where Warren under the UNDP Strengthening Project has left.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the motion has received a lot of support only indicated that the UNDP Strengthening Project has succeeded under Warren. Secondly, our Parliament has benefited greatly from the project so much so that if I may say that our Parliament arose from the ashes of the ethnic tension to become an outstanding Parliament in the region today.

Finally, this Parliament twining with the New South Wales Parliament can be seen as Warren's gift to the Solomon Islands legislature. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, contributions made on this motion will further broaden and deeply express and confirm Parliament's appreciation of Warren's service and the support that we received from the UNDP.

With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members before I put the question I wish to make a few remarks from the chair. Hon. Members I wish to take the opportunity to make some closing remarks related to the resolution passed earlier of which we are yet to put a question by the house to express its appreciation for Warren Cahill's service to this Parliament. I make these remarks on behalf of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, all parliamentary staff and the entire National Parliament Office family who could not contribute in the debate we had earlier. Let me start with some general observations about Warren based on his work with my office and the National Parliament Office since October 2005. Warren, as most members acknowledged earlier is an incredibly experienced and knowledgeable

parliamentary officer. His knowledge on parliamentary systems and procedures is phenomenal and he has on countless occasions guided myself and the Clerk where we came across novel situations that none of our local rules or conventions address. For that guidance I sincerely thank him. The other quality that Warren has, one which has assisted greatly in strengthening this Parliament, is his ability and capacity to mentor and guide parliamentary staff and officers, even young officers with the view to achieve desired outcomes that seem impossible. Of course, everyone has visions and higher goals for their institution or work place, and for many years, the Clerk and I had such goals for this Parliament. Dreaming is one thing and it is free, making them come true on the other hand is completely another and only very special individuals have the ability to pull that off. For our Parliament that special individual has been Warren. Because of his vision, planning and implementation methods, I am proud to say that our dreams for this Parliament have and continue to come true. I strongly believe that the National Parliament of Solomon Islands was very fortunate to have secured the services of a person of such a high caliber, and with his brilliant set of skills, talents, knowledge and experience as the Project Manager of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project, we were indeed blessed giving that the project has a shaky start.

To my staff and myself, Warren is more than just an expatriate advisor. He has become our good friend who still has the ability to maintain that relationship whilst being an effective and firm mentor to our officers. Warren is not just a disinterested advisor. He has been very involved engaging and truly took goals of our Parliament to heart. That is however not so surprising. If one observes Warren's work in our Parliament closely, one would find that he is indeed a highly motivated officer who clearly has a passion for parliamentary practice and procedures no matter which parliament he might be working for. It has been tremendously refreshing for myself and my staff to watch Warren go about his work here with passion, enjoying it and working almost for the fun of it. Although Warren as a Project Manager for a UNDP Project, my personal observation of him is that no matter where he goes he will always be a full blooded parliamentary staff first and project manager second. In that regard, I thank him very much for always putting this Parliament and its core needs first and foremost in every initiative he undertook or participated in. In my personal assessment, Warren understood Solomon Islanders well in a very short time following his arrival and we salute and respect him for that understanding. I believe it was his understanding that was the catalyst in the success of his change management approach to the strengthening of our Parliament. When he first got here in October 2005, he only had a handful to work with. Through his own innovation, this Parliament now enjoys the support services of a vibrant Solomon

Islander team who share Warren's passion for this Parliament. His understanding of our cultural context obviously gave him a starting point when he sets out on his mission here. It goes without saying that Warren is a best team player I have ever known. Although, he came in as a project manager he was somehow able to fit into the role that called for his assistance. He has been more than just a manager. He worked well with his project team and the rest of the parliamentary staff on equal footing. He is very understanding and listens to even the smallest issue or complaint. His mentoring has thus gone beyond professional or work issues and he has been very helpful to individual staff members in terms of their personal issues. Indeed, Warren has been completely unselfish in his daily endeavor to pass on his knowledge, skills and experience to everyone who needs it. I am sure members, especially members of Standing and Special Committees have also experienced Warren's understanding, mentoring and assistance in one way or another. We have also witnessed his keen interest in supporting and commitment to all stakeholders of this Parliament and its committees including donors and other development partners. Because of that this Parliament has benefited a lot from the support these stakeholders who have had a great working relationship with Warren. I see this as one of the most treasured success of Warren's work here, and I can only pray that those of us who will pick up his efforts will be able to maintain these relationships and enjoy the same success in the long run.

One thing that continues to amaze me is Warren's ability to be always aware of what is happening in the National Parliament Office and even in other ministries and organizations. It gives a lot for one person to maintain this bizarre level of awareness and stay saying. However, if one could pull that off, as Warren has, we have seen the real value of that ability that he is being able to always to see the bigger picture so that every problem can be turned into an opportunity and every mistake treated as invaluable lesson. I sincerely hope and trust that my local officers have learned these abilities from Warren because no doubt we will need these kinds of abilities and outlook particularly as we face pressing times.

To Warren, on behalf of my staff and the entire National Parliament family, I thank you very much for your guidance, support, mentoring, dedication and efforts over the past three and half years. Your presence and support will be sorely missed and we are not even sure whether we can ever repay or replace you. As you take on new horizons and endeavors, we wish you all the best and bid that you convey our warmest greetings and well wishes to the next Parliament and UNDP office that you move on to. Thank you very much.

Honorable Members, I wish to conclude by once again thanking Warren's sincerely for his timely appearance and for his tireless dedication and efforts for

our infant Parliament. The day will come when this Parliament can hold its head high amongst Commonwealth Parliaments as a Parliament with sound and respected procedures and practices. When the day comes, let be remembered even if none of us here is around then that the long journey towards achieving that status all started from one man, Mr Warren Cameron Cahill. Thank you very much and farewell friend!

Honorable Members, please note that there will be some refreshments after we adjourn. Please join me and Warren for a last laugh before we go off for the weekend break and for good in Warren's case. Thank you very much indeed.

The motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 12.20 pm.