

TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2008

The Speaker, Sir Peter Kenilorea took the Chair at 9.30am.

Prayers.

ATTENDANCE

At prayers, all were present with the exception of the Ministers for Mines and Minerals and Rural Electrification, Agriculture and Livestock, Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Foreign Affairs and the Members for Shortlands, Central Makira, North-West Choiseul, East Makira, West Guadalcanal, North Guadalcanal, Central Honiara, Malaita Outer Islands, West New Georgia/Vona Vona, West Are Are and South Vella Lavella.

SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members before we proceed with today's business, I wish to inform the honourable House of a number of procedural matters outlined in the circular to Members by the honourable Prime Minister and which relates to the desire for this House to congratulate, encourage and support the Solomon Islands National Futsal Soccer Team which will participate in the coming 7th FIFA Futsal World Cup to be held in Brazil later this month.

Yesterday, the honourable Prime Minister gave notice of a congratulatory motion. He desires to move today, in recognition of this remarkable achievement, the motion that appears in the Notice Paper. Although the motion does not comply with the usual notice requirement, the Speaker yesterday granted leave under Standing Order 26(1) for the honourable Prime Minister to move this motion in today's sitting.

Members of the National Futsal Soccer Team are present with us today but will need to leave shortly to prepare for their departure this afternoon as they head to Brazil. There is therefore need for us to deal with the honourable Prime Minister's motion straight away rather than following the usual order of business. As Members are aware, this however, requires the suspension of Standing Orders. I now call the honourable Prime Minister to take the necessary steps to allow us to proceed immediately with this motion prior to the asking of questions.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Speaker, in order to allow this House to immediately consider the motion standing in my name in the Notice Paper, I seek your consent under Standing Order 81 to move a motion to suspend the relevant Standing Order.

Mr Speaker: Thank you Prime Minister, leave is granted for the honourable Prime Minister to move that particular motion of suspension.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Speaker, I move that Standing Order 13 be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 81 so that the congratulatory motion in my name takes precedent notwithstanding the usual order of business for a sitting.

Mr SOGAVARE: Mr Speaker, this side of the House has no problem with that motion.

Standing Order 13 stands suspended.

Mr Speaker: The honourable Prime Minister may proceed with his motion. I trust that having read both the Notice Paper and its explanatory memorandum this morning, Members have sufficient notice in order to contribute to this motion within reasonable time.

Hon. SIKUA: Mr Speaker, I move:

- (1) that the National Parliament of Solomon Islands acknowledges with enormous pride the achievement of the Solomon Islands National Futsal Soccer Team in becoming the first National Representative in the Futsal Soccer Code to represent the Oceania Region and the Solomon Islands at the 7th FIFA Futsal World Cup in Brazil scheduled to be held in October 2008;
- (2) That the National Parliament of Solomon Islands on behalf of all Solomon Islanders wishes the Futsal Team as it departs for the World Cup on 2nd September every success in the knowledge that the team will represent their country proudly.

Mr Speaker, I take much pleasure in moving this motion to congratulate our Futsal Team, the Kurukuru for qualifying to take part in the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Brazil and as they depart today for the tournament on behalf of the whole House and our country and people, I wish them all the best in the

tournament. You have all our support and encouragement and I trust that you will perform to your best and fly our flag high in Brazil. I also wish the team well in their friendly games in Australia en route to Brazil.

Mr Speaker, soccer or football is our national sports and although we are not doing that well in the 11 a side code, we have been doing very well in the five a side code both in Beach Soccer and Futsal. Our national sport, soccer and sports in general, Mr Speaker, has had a unifying effect in our country, especially during the difficult times that we went through and currently as we work towards reconciliation and rehabilitation.

Mr Speaker, it is an honour and privilege for our young Futsal Team, and for that matter for Solomon Islands to represent our region in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Tournament. I know that our team is placed in a tough pool with Brazil and Russia, but I am sure that they will do their best. Little was known about Solomon Islands in the World Soccer until we burst into the scene of World Beach Soccer representing our region three times. Now, our Kurukuru Team has done us proud again by representing our region for the first time in the Futsal Code at the World stage.

Once again, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the whole country I wish our boys and the Team Management all the best in Brazil. I wish to assure them of all our full support, encouragement and prayers. I also trust Mr Speaker, that they will be good ambassadors for Solomon Islands both on and off the field.

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

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, the honourable Prime Minister has moved a motion to allow this House to acknowledge the achievement of the National Futsal Soccer Team and to wish success to the same in its participation in the 7th FIFA Futsal World Cup 2008.

Before I allow debate, may I kindly remind Members that we only have today and tomorrow to deal with remaining business before this meeting is adjourned sine die tomorrow.

Further, as I indicated earlier the Futsal Team present in the House this morning needs to leave shortly to prepare for their flight. For those reasons and on the basis that this is a motion of congratulation, I propose that the honourable Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition be given the opportunity to speak first on behalf of all Members of the House before other Members contribute.

Further, I propose and accordingly request Members' support that this debate be concluded by 10.30am to allow the team time with their families before departing this afternoon. While there is no time restriction for debate on motions under Standing Orders, I am sure this honourable House does not want to be responsible for any delay in the team's preparation and departure for the World

Cup. I therefore request Members' cooperation and kindly ask all Members to be mindful of these considerations when making their contributions and to adhere to the normal rules of debate.

Mr SOGAVARE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to debate in support of the motion moved by the honourable Prime Minister. In doing so, I join him in congratulating the country's Futsal Team who will take on the challenging responsibility of not only representing Solomon Islands but the Oceania in the Futsal World Cup Championship Tournament to be held in Brazil later this month.

Mr Speaker, this is an achievement worthy of commendation. It is an honour well deserved by the boys and the Solomon Islands Football Federation with the support of technical assistance attached to SIFF.

Indeed, Mr Speaker, it is a direct result of well placed collective efforts. It is my understanding that the team is a product of a strategic development program put together by SIFF over the years at the School of Excellence to groom the country's young talents to achieve high level of proficiency in soccer.

Mr Speaker, the team virtually grew up playing soccer. It is therefore just appropriate that I take this opportunity, to join the Prime Minister, to sincerely acknowledge the painful hours put into the development of this team by SIFF Technical Officers. I appreciate that it is not an easy task.

By the same token, Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the commitment by the boys that enable them to cope with the demands of what is physically and mentally required of them. Mr Speaker, it is a fine example, of what team work and discipline can achieve. These efforts, Mr Speaker, have certainly paid off.

We have a team that is both physically and mentally fit and ready to take on the world giants in Futsal. They have done what may have been thought of as impossible 10 years ago. Certainly, I join the Prime Minister to say "they have certainly done us proud".

I must also thank their parents, Mr Speaker, and guardians for the understanding, commitment and personal involvement in nurturing the interests developed by these boys at the early stage and for continuing to provide the support that has certainly assisted in transforming this interest into formidable skills comparable to the world's best. We have reason to be proud of them, Mr Speaker. I wish them well as they take on the challenging responsibility of representing the Oceania in the Tournament not only as Futsal players but as rightfully observed by the Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, as ambassadors of the region.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion and congratulate the Team.

Hon. TAUSINGA: Mr Speaker, I make no delay in rising up and making my contribution to the motion moved by the honourable Prime Minister to congratulate the Kurukuru Futsal Team for their achievement and for their participation in the World Cup Tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

At the outset, I wish to thank the Solomon Islands Football Federation and the public for the support they have given to the team and that motivates and bring out in each player the best performance that we can all be proud of. I would also like to thank the Head Coach, Team Manager, and Technical Officials for their invaluable contributions in making the team competitive in World Tournament. To the team, and to the individual players, thank you for making us proud of your achievements.

Mr Speaker, Futsal, like the Beach Soccer, is a newly introduced sport into the country. Mr Speaker, I think, but I stand correction, it was introduced into the country some 10 years ago unlike other sports that have been with us for the past half a century. But it is a sport that has attracted a good following and many young people have enrolled in its organized domestic competitions.

And though new it may be, the interest amongst the youth is overwhelming. The triumph over other teams in the Championship Tournament at Fiji recently is a demonstration of how quick we have developed and advanced compared to others who have played the sports for decades. And so we have developed Mr Speaker, and we have developed Futsal to a level incomparable to other sports in the country. And Futsal has developed us to advance and compete with the best teams of the world. Therefore, the trip to Rio is a testimony to our triumph in the Oceania Confederation and our equal status to the many Futsal countries of the world.

The Tournament will be watched by millions of viewers in the many Futsal countries and Solomon Islands' flag will fly high amongst other flags in Rio. Viewers around the globe will see and know that Solomon Islands is a team, a country, a people that is emerging and a team that has developed and had found its rightful place in world tournaments. In more than one ways, Mr Speaker, it is to our benefits in sport, in tourism and it is a free promotion, so to speak.

Yes, Mr Speaker, the National Flag of Solomon Islands shall be raised and the National Anthem shall be played and the Team Members shall sing along and it is a great or a happy feeling to stand amongst the spectators and to see the flag waving sort of beckoning to you to perform to your best or the words of the National Anthem reminding you that the people and the country support you. And so you are not alone in the trip to Rio. The flag and the National Anthem carry the government and the people with you to Rio, the land of the Samba.

And so this establishes the logic that when you run in the field half a million people in Solomon Islands run with you. When you kick the ball half a million people of Solomon Islands kick the ball with you. When you score a goal, half a million people in Solomon Islands scored the goal. That little happy shout you give when you score the goal, half a million people in Solomon Islands shout with you. In other words, Mr Speaker, the uniform you wear you carry with you the people of Solomon Islands. When you lace the shoes you carry half a million in your shoes, and the goal half a million people score the goal. When you are injured, half a million people are injured. This is the blessing that you go with.

I must end my remarks with a little poem that I managed to pen up this morning. It goes like this:

Brazil where at thou....

*We are the choice of the many
who travel from afar
to show our identity
in sport and fair competition
Brazil here we come.....*

*Make way for Solo
whatever the cost
the encounter is on
and glory is the name
and nations shall see
the fighting spirit of all
that elevates our country
Brazil here we come.....*

*We do not go alone
on our shoulder we bear
the many people
the young, the old – lame and disabled
and the urge that propels
the extra mile we stride
a testimony of fortitude
Brazil here we come....*

*The inner soul we mould
to energize the physics*

*in preparation at best
for the show-down of all
and our heart and soul
we give all
as testimony of will
for our nation – we are proud
of the competitive spirit of ancestors
Brazil here we come....*

*We are sane ambassadors
on the field and off the field
the tears that we shed
is the glory of achievements
or for the heartache of under-performance
is nature's expression of human nature
And so let it beBrazil here we come.*

Sir, with these words of encouragement, I congratulate the Futsal Team, and at the same time bid them farewell. I farewell you because something good will come your way. Go my fellow countrymen, go my ambassadors, go my team, go sons of Solomon Islands to the land of the Samba – Rio de Janeiro. Our prayers go with you... And go Solo Go...Go Solo Go....Go Solo Goooooooo... And go with God's Blessings....

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr SOALAOI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. On behalf of this table, Mr Speaker first of all let me congratulate the Kurukuru for the achievements it has obtained. I believe all of us in the House are proud, and not only proud but feel that we a part of a team that has achieved something.

Mr Speaker, before I continue with my congratulatory statement to our boys, I think this is an indication that this country can achieve something. Our soccer boys, especially the Beach Soccer and Futsal have shown us that Solomon Islands can be one of the best countries in the world.

Mr Speaker, the countries competing in this World Cup are the best soccer teams in the region, and for Solomon Islands to participate simply tells us that we are the best country in terms of Futsal in the region. I am proud that we have some of the best talents in the region, and for your information some of these boys used to run around with us at the Henderson airport field. And so I feel very much a part of the team because of my support and heartfelt gratitude for

their achievement this far. I think they have shown us that this is a country that can stand tall with other countries in the world.

As a young team, Mr Speaker, for your information, the Kurukuru Team is made up of young players, most of them under 20 years old in comparison to other teams in the region, which competed recently in Fiji that have matured players playing in their team. It is therefore very encouraging to see our young boys competing with matured players and coming out champions in the end.

I fell very proud too, Mr Speaker, as a young leader standing behind this young team, full of energy and courage to play with matured players, Mr Speaker. I believe it is a clear indication of what our young people can achieve for us to make us a country that we want to be on this planet Mr Speaker.

To be very brief, Mr Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate our Kurukuru boys. We will see this young team living today. I will definitely be at the airport to see them leave and come back after that.

Mr Speaker, as a strong supporter of this team, especially the team that is living today I would like to see them leave and I will also be there to welcome them home when they come back.

Mr Speaker, I believe these boys will realize that nothing is impossible to them that believe in discipline, hard work and sacrifice. I believe they have spent some quality time out from their parents to be together as a team, as a unit that can work together as a team and compete and play together and win together for our country.

On behalf of the backbenchers, if I may say this, Mr Speaker, I would like to wish our Kurukuru boys well, and all the best at this up coming world cup. We will be there with you in spirit and we will remember in our prayers, not because of anything but because we support your achievement.

Mr Speaker, we are not supporting them as individuals but we support them because of the achievements they attained. Our young people need to understand and know that we support them and so we encourage achievement and good behaviour. That is the message our young people in this country also need to know. If our young people can stand up and are disciplined your leaders will certainly be behind you.

At this juncture, Mr Speaker, may I make this call on our young people who are not in the team but are also supporters of this team and citizens of this country to know why it is important for us to do the right things and get the support of our leaders.

Just like what our Prime Minister and the Leader of opposition have said, this is an achievement that must be commended, and so I commend you Kurukuru boys and once again I congratulate you and wish you the best in Brazil. See you when you come back. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. TORA: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for moving this very important motion.

Mr Speaker, just in brief I also would like to join the Honourable Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Education, and the MP for Temotu Vattu in congratulating our young youths who would be participating in the World Cup in Brazil. The whole nation today is aware of your participation at the World Cup. Not only those in Honiara are aware, Mr Speaker, but some members of my constituency have also spoken highly of these young boys for their participation in the Futsal World Cup in Brazil.

Mr Speaker, the CNURA Government is very serious in fulfilling its commitment to supporting the sporting federations in Solomon Islands. Mr Speaker, for the information of House, the Government had assisted the Futsal Soccer Team at the World Cup qualifying competition held in Suva, Fiji with the sum of \$176,000. For this trip, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for seeing it very important yesterday in signing the CW ensuring the money is quickly processed and released to the team. The amount the government has assisted this trip with is \$155,000 just to meet shortfalls on their en route to Brazil.

Mr Speaker, I would be very brief. The CNURA Government must be commended for its policy of improving and upgrading of all sporting facilities in the country to pave way for the next bid for 2015 of the South Pacific Games and other international games which will be held in this country in the future.

To conclude, Mr Speaker, as Minister responsible for sports in Solomon Islands, I would also like to congratulate our young people, the Futsal team who would be leaving this afternoon. For sure, Mr Speaker, I will speak with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to allow this team to go through the VIP at the Henderson International Airport. Mr Speaker, much have been said about these young people. They have set history in terms of sports in the country.

Mr Speaker, without taking much of your time because you restricted time to 10:30am, I would like to wish the team a pleasant journey as they make their way to the highest competition in the World in Brazil.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, I support the motion. Thank you.

Hon MANETOALI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will be very brief in debating this motion. I would also like to thank the Prime Minister for this motion in congratulating the National Futsal team.

These are my congratulatory words, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the men and women of my Ministry, especially men and women of the Solomon Islands Police Force, RAMSI Officials, Correctional Services and staff and people who

are in prison and on behalf of my Ministry, on behalf of my people, especially the sports people of my constituency of Gao/Bugotu, I would like congratulate the Kurukuru National Futsal Team for its successes.

The Kurukuru team represents Solomon Islands and the Oceania. The Kurukuru team will be flying the Solomon Islands flag high in Brazil and our National Anthem will be sung in Brazil when the team is there.

To the coach and officials, I also would like to congratulate for your hard work in bringing the team this far. I also thank the parents for allowing their children to represent people of Solomon Islands.

Mr Speaker, I have confidence in the Kurukuru Futsal team, and that is why I have to stand up and congratulate the team. My congratulation is in two parts, Mr Speaker, and that is first of all because of the achievements so far at the Oceania, and secondly, because the team will win. So, Mr Speaker I support the motion.

Mr ZAMA: Mr Speaker, I would like to contribute very briefly to this motion moved by the Honourable Prime Minister. Sir, I also acknowledge the presence of the team who are here with us this morning and will be living us shortly.

What I would like to raise here is that, out of the very poor facilities we have in Solomon Islands these boys can now make it. And out of the very slackness of successive governments in supporting teams in the past and even this last minute support rendered by the government these boys have made it. And out of all the slackness that some of us parents have not committed to our children these boys have done us proud. Therefore, in conclusion, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of South New Georgia/Rendova Tetepare, the children in all the schools in my constituency, the boys, girls and the elderly people in my constituency, boys, we congratulate you and bid you farewell this afternoon. God bless you. Thank you.

Hon. Sikua: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition and all the Members who have stood up to contribute to this very important congratulatory motion.

I have nothing more to add but to once again on behalf of the Government and people of Solomon Islands, wish the team safe travel, first through Australia and then on to Brazil later on, and to assure the team as I have said of our full support, encouragement and prayers, Mr Speaker.

To all the team members, may you play all your games in the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship, to be gracious in your winning and to be humble and learn from your experience in your losing.

Mr Speaker, as I have said I have nothing more to say but to wish the team again all the best and that go Kurukuru go, go Solo go. With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The motion agreed to

Mr Speaker: This Honourable House therefore formally acknowledges the pride of the achievement of the Solomon Islands National Futsal soccer team in representing this country at the 7th FIFA Futsal World Cup 2008, and wishes the team every success in its endeavour in Brazil next month. May I add my voice in support of the team's endeavours and pray that the Lord watches over them during their time away and their return.

Before we go on to another business, I think to afford the opportunity for Members of Parliament to shake their hands before they leave us, I will suspend Parliament for 10 minutes to afford Members of Parliament who may wish to say goodbye to them outside to do so.

Sitting suspended for 10 minutes

Parliament resumes

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Export of Reef Fish - Strategies

46. SOGAVARE to the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources: What specific strategies have been put in place to encourage local fisherman participate in exporting reef fish under the rural advancement program?

Hon. LENI: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition for the question. This question is an important question and I will speak in pidgin so that rural communities can hear the government's plan on this issue.

Mr Speaker, in the past three months the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has been working at establishing a national strategy for fisheries and marine resources management. Included in the strategy are three components the Ministry is going to implement. The first component is the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Coastal and Community Strategy. This component is going to look at food security of coastal communities living close to

the coastlines on how they are going to harvest the fish along our shores. This is not the deep seas but coastal reefs and shores along our seas.

The second component is the Ministry of Fisheries Management and Conservation Strategy. This strategy is to do with preserving of coastal areas. We can harvest the reef fish but certain areas of our coasts should be preserved so that when one area is harvested there is enough reef fish available in the conserved area to reproduce fish so that although the area is harvested there are still fishes in our seas. The third component is Fisheries Management and Commercial Strategy. This component looks at a bigger scale or commercial harvesting of reef fish. Those three components make up the management strategy plan of the Ministry.

What has the Ministry done so far? Mr Speaker, on the 28th and 29th of July, the Ministry has invited representatives of communities throughout the whole country including the provinces, the NGOs and people based in the communities and are already doing small scale fishing in their areas to attend a workshop. After these two days workshop, the recommendations and conclusions of the workshop were put together on what the Ministry must consider on this national strategy, and they came up with six aspects the Ministry must strongly consider.

The first aspect the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources must consider is to complete the community strategy so that this document can become the national document for the government to work towards, and not only this government but any successive governments.

Another observation they want is for the Ministry to give the support of the stakeholders to the National Government on its policy statement on fisheries and marine resources management.

Another observation they are asking the Ministry of Fisheries to do is for the Ministry to produce a report every year on the abundance of reef fish within our communities in all the provinces throughout the country. This annual state of fisheries report is important not only for the communities' purposes but also for the government's purposes so that we can work according to the way that we can get proper food security for our communities that depend very much on marine resources in our coastal areas.

The other thing is that they also suggested and put forward to the government that this particular report must be reviewed every year so that there is no difficulty in finding food shortage on reef fish inside the country, but also much more important to this is that it will allow our fisherman in the rural areas to always have enough fish on reefs and coastal waters in the country. That would enable our communities that use fish as their daily commodities to earn

income so that they know how much is enough for them to eat and at the same time how much they can sell to get income to help them.

Another thing they are asking is that Solomon Islands locally manage marine area network to improve government donor NGO and community based fisheries activities and projects. This body and this particular project will also allow communities throughout the country to appraise projects and put forward to the government or through the Ministry of Fisheries on the micro projects to help assist them develop fisheries projects and activities in the areas they live.

Mr Speaker, this is important because even we parliamentarians who are talking inside this Parliament, not all of us understand the situation in the communities that eat the reef fish every day and also use the fish to find money to help them in their livelihood.

The last one is to establish a community secretariat or network to work with the Ministry on coastal and inshore fisheries issues. This is a new thing and the Ministry is hoping that in the next year's budget we may be able to put new funding for establishment of this secretariat. This is important because the secretariat will coordinate the work of our rural fishermen throughout the country to help the Ministry put in place the community strategy that we are planning.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry sees this as very important. Community strategy is a framework that will not only allow sustainable small fisheries to take place but more importantly the participation of rural fisheries development in the country. This is the first step in ensuring food security and reducing poverty in Solomon Islands.

In brief, Mr Speaker, that is the answer I can give for the time being unless there is any supplementary questions, I can expand. Thank you.

Mr. Waipora: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. When I saw this question and the words "encourage local fishermen" immediately I think about the provincial fisheries centres that have rundown at this time, and may be this is one way of encouraging them but this time they are rundown.

What can the Minister tell us or tell Parliament as to how the Fisheries Centres have rundown? I want to make an example here, Mr Speaker. People from Makira, Santa Ana and Santa Catalina are depending on the fisheries centre if it is working because they are fishermen and can have access to it. My question is, what is the Ministry doing to improve the Fisheries Centres so that it helps the local fishermen? Thank you.

Hon. Leni: Mr Speaker, at the moment we have about 30 Fisheries Centres throughout the country, but this is still not enough. One of the problems we

have is that we depend heavily on our friends from Japan under the OFCF project funding for the repair and maintenance of the centres.

What the strategy, I have been talking about, is trying to do here is to allow communities themselves to have the knowledge of how they can man the rural fisheries project centres themselves. These people will also help the Ministry identify where else in the country there is need so that some more fisheries centres are established to help our people.

We would want to ensure that a good proportion of our rural communities have access to this kind of facility so that they do not depend very much on the central government or provincial governments for help.

When these are put together and once the strategy starts to flow, you will see self motivation coming up in the communities themselves to run these projects like it is their own business. Right now these fisheries centres are seen by the people as owned by the central government and not theirs. We are trying to put something in place that attaches to their own livelihood, and they see this business as their own business or their food security everyday.

Yes, Mr Speaker, we are going in that direction. What we are doing now is to get these fisheries centres working. Some are not working, some are now working. The OFCF team is going around to all the fisheries centres now trying to resurrect and put them into operations again. As soon as that is done, we may be able to lease the centres to the communities closer to them, and then we will look at new areas where need arises, where perhaps the government will look at putting new fisheries centres in those areas so that it allows everybody, every coastal fisheries people in Solomon Islands to have access to one of those types of facilities available throughout the country. That is where we are going now.

Mr. Sogavare: I thank the Minister for his elaborate answers to this question.

Secondary Schools Computer Projects

56. Mr SOGAVARE: Mr Speaker, before I ask this question, I just want to get the understanding of the House that my intention is for the Minister to just answer the questions as put down there. The other issues are subjects of investigation by some authorities, and so I will try to guide the way we address this question.

The question reads, "With regard to the Secondary Schools computer projects, can the Minister inform Parliament which schools are to receive the computers or have received them? How many schools have been supplied with the computers?"

Hon. TAUSINGA: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition and the Member of Parliament for East Choiseul for the question.

Mr Speaker, the following information is provided to answer the question. The schools that should receive the computers are 15 altogether, and are as follows: King George IV Secondary School - Honiara, Honiara High School - Honiara, Florence Young Secondary School - Honiara, St. Joseph Tenaru Secondary School - Guadalcanal. Bishop Epalle Secondary School - Honiara, Ruavatu Provincial Secondary School - Guadalcanal, Aligegeo Provincial Secondary School - Malaita, Su'u National Secondary School - Malaita, Maoro Community High - Malaita, Adaua Provincial Secondary School - Malaita, Choiseul Provincial Secondary School - Choiseul, Kukudu Secondary School - Western, Biula Provincial Secondary School - Western, Goldie College - Western and Waimapuru Secondary School - Makira. These are the schools that should receive the computers.

On the question of how many schools have been supplied with the computers, the following schools have received computers: Biula Provincial Secondary School received 6 desktops, 1 laptop, 2 laser printers. King George IV School received 6 desktops, 1 laptop, and 2 laser jet printers. Su'u Secondary School received 1 laptop, 1 laser jet printer and 1 power surge protector. Florence Young received 1 laptop, 1 printer and 1 power surge protector. Bishop Epalle received 1 laptop, 1 laser jet printer and 1 power surge protector. Tenaru received 1 laptop, 1 laser jet printer and 1 power surge protector. Honiara High School received 1 laptop, 1 laser jet printer, 1 power surge protector. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Oti: Mr Speaker, on the intention of the project. Since the schools that have been mentioned have at least one or two units, is it for the purpose of school administration or for classroom use by the students through some arrangements like if computer labs are set up and the students can have access to them? Which of the two is the intention? Is it for school administration or for use by students in the schools?

Hon Tausinga: Yes, Mr Speaker, these computers are provided for school laboratories to be used by students. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Sogavare: Thank you, Mr Speaker, supplementary question. Of all the computers and the facilities that have been distributed to schools, what is the total cost of the equipments that have been delivered, and why is it that other schools that are mentioned do not receive the same facilities? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon Tausinga: The total project costs is \$4.9 million and so the computers that I have read out is less than what each school should receive, which means that the cost would be very much less than \$4.9 million. I am unable to give you a direct figure; my calculation would have to minus from \$4.9million before I can provide the correct figure, but obviously much, much less than the original cost. This is because they have not yet supplied all the computers. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Oti: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. Since schools are all over the whole country and not all provinces that have been mentioned have all their schools equipped. Is the Government thinking and if so, is the government contemplating some provision in the budget for 2009 to equip the other schools that have not yet on-stream with the present project as well as to give up the provision of computers for some of the schools that have been identified to only have one or two with the intention to increase the number of computers for those schools mentioned by the Minister and more importantly, the continuation of the project to cover other schools in the country in 2009? These are the project in 2007 not reflected by the provision in 2008 and therefore a shortfall or not being able to equip all schools as mentioned by the Minister. This is just an idea if the Minister can confirm that this project can continue to ensure that other schools are equipped in 2009. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon Tausinga: Mr Speaker, the government encourages the Educational Authorities by forcing them to open computer for the schools. But government has no immediate plans to provide computers for all schools within Solomon Islands.

This particular case is a project proposal which was submitted to our donor partners or funding agency, those people who usually provide us with funds and thus the project was approved and so the computers were purchased and some are yet to be completed. At this stage the government does not have any immediate plan to provide computers to all schools within the country.

Mr. Waipora: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, supplementary question. The ministry must have criteria of supplying those equipments and that is why the Minister read out certain schools. What criteria have been followed in order for a particular school to qualify for that sort of project?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr. Speaker, the project has been approved already and funding is released. It is not really a question of criteria. It is really a question of trying to accomplish or buy computers and providing it to all the schools.

Mr. Boyers: Supplementary question, Mr Speaker. Can the Minister advice Parliament if the *One-Computer-Per-Child Programme* coordinated by SPREP, the Bill Gates initiative of poverty eradication is still being implemented in our country? I heard that there was some sort of problems but if the Minister can advise Parliament if that programme is still being activated throughout our country for our children?

Hon. Tausinga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes Mr Speaker but I think that is a different question altogether. I think the question that I am trying to answer here is in relation to a particular project to supply computers to schools or to nominated schools that I have read out. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Sogavare: Mr Speaker, just a supplementary question. How many computers should each school be supplied with, Mr Speaker?

Hon. Tausinga: Mr. Speaker, for the total: King George – 1 laptop, 12 desktops, 4 printers, 12 power surge, 15 flash drives, 12 UPS; Honiara High – 1 laptop, 6 desktops, 4 printers, 7 power surge, 8 flash drives, 7 UPS; Florence Young – 1 laptop, 6 desktops, 3 printers, 7 power surge, 8 flash drives, 7 UPS; Saint Joseph – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 3 printers, 7 power surge, 5 flash drives, 7 UPS; Bishop Epalle, 1 laptop, 6 desktops, 3 printers, 7 power surge, 5 flash drives, 7 UPS; Ruavatu Provincial Secondary School – 1 laptop, 6 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 7 flash drives, 8 UPS; Aligegeo Provincial Secondary School – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Su’u National Secondary School – 1 laptop, 9 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Maoro Community High – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Adaua – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Choiseul Provincial Secondary School – 1 laptop, 9 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Kukudu – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 3 printers, 8 power surge, 5 flash drives, 8 UPS; Biula – 1 laptop, 8 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 8 flash drives, 8 UPS; Goldie Secondary School – 1 laptop, 9 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 8 flash drives, 8 UPS; Waimapuru – 1 laptop, 9 desktops, 4 printers, 8 power surge, 8 flash drives, 8 UPS. The total of these Mr. Speaker, should be 15 laptops, 120 desktops, 56 printers, 120 power surge, 102 flash drives and 120 UPS.

It might be a good idea, sir if I can provide the Members the list here and put them in the pigeonholes for them to really understand what is involved and they can make their own calculation as to what is in place and what is yet to be provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sogavare: Mr. Speaker, we would welcome that. This is a project, of course implemented, to a private firm but is still a government project. Can the Minister inform the House why the person who was given this contract cannot deliver those equipments?

Hon. Tausinga: Yes Mr. Speaker. That is a good question but the reason given for the slow progress of this particular project is that not all schools have proper computer laboratories and some schools do not have regular power supply. The Ministry is currently verifying the progress report with schools to see if these reasons are valid and in due course will respond to the report as soon as the verification is completed.

Mr. Sogavare: Mr Speaker I think the question has been adequately answered and I thank the Minister for answering the question. Thank you Sir.

Tribal Lands and Titles Bill

61. **Mr SOGAVARE** to the Minister for Lands, Housing & Survey: Can the Minister inform the House the progress made in enacting the Tribal Lands and Titles Bill?

Hon. MAGGA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition for asking the question.

Mr. Speaker, the document that went to Cabinet in November 2006 was entitled 'Tribal and Customary Land Titles Act'. The Cabinet then identified the document as a layman's draft and so approved drafting by the Legal Draftsman. It is not visibly clear whether any drafting was done on the document in 2007, but in April 2008 my Ministry has instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the Bill. The Attorney General has vetted the Draft Bill and Instruction and the advice rendered by the Attorney General points out that substantial work is yet to be done on the document before it is ready for resubmission to Cabinet.

The senior officials in my Ministry and the Attorney General's Chamber are currently studying the document and will advise me after completion of their study of the way forward.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Bill document may need to be put for wider consultations throughout the country before Legislative Drafting is to begin. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr Sogavare: Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for answering the question.

Alienated Land

62. **Mr. SOGAVARE** to the Minister of Lands, Housing & Survey: What steps has the Ministry taken to implement the standing policy to return alienated lands to indigenous original landowners?

Hon. MAGGA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Leader of Opposition for raising this very important question.

The answer is as follows; no doubt many people in this country are very interested on this question and rightfully so. In fact if I can remember rightly, this is one of the major undertakings of the GCC Government, and with your indulgence I seek the patience of the House to give me chance to give the question a thorough answer.

The standing policy to return alienated lands to our people now falls under the purview of the continuing work of land reform. The work under the current standing policy requires careful examination of the original deeds by which lands that used to be customary land became alienated. There were several methods used whereby land that was held under customary tenure became alienated. At earlier times, this were held under different categories such as crown land or crown land leases, free hold land estates and native land leases.

I can give particulars on these different methods to the questioner or any MPs who are interested. But what is interesting is that initially all alienated lands were part of customary lands held under various tribes which own them. They were then part of those tribal lands until the time of their alienation.

The work requires careful examination of the original deeds by which lands that used to be customary became alienated. Therefore, in determining the original owners of any alienated land, it is important, first of all, to identify the tribe which owned it before it was sold away. Until then, it is not possible to properly address the question of returning alienated lands to the original owners. There are no other alternatives available whereby it is practical to do this except by identification of those who own it in the first place.

Recording of the different tribes and the land as tribe-owned is an intricate exercise which requires great care and attention. Upon this work alone hangs the entire future of the country. Over the years, there have been ad hoc dealings by

the Ministry responsible for land in the country and there are land-holding groups that have formed associations. Therefore, this is a major undertaking under the reform government program.

Security of land tenure cannot be taken lightly and the pressure being placed on the government in returning alienated lands to the original owners even threatened current registered titles. This is the portion of land which is supporting most, if not all, the important economic development of the country. Such that, if the pressures are not watched and guided, this could lead to end result in unwanted negative effects on the whole economy. But with careful approach, there is a strong chance of getting strong support from the people who want to see their land sorted out amicably. So the way forward to dealing with returning any alienated land to indigenous people is by careful approaching it through the land reform exercise.

The CNURA Government therefore has the political will to work together with Provincial Governments and people to fully support the exercise of land reform and to push it forward. Further appropriate policy needs to be formulated on how best the original owners, provincial governments and the national government could find the best means of using these lands, but after identifying the tribes that own them.

Following the decline to the Public Service offer by the selected candidate, the Ministry is re-advertising the position of the Assistant Director (alienated lands), whose main tasks will be the careful research and analysis of the original deeds of conveyance. The requirement for the job demands that the officer must be a lawyer. Once we have someone in place and research work begins with the collaboration of concerned stakeholders, we expect identification of tribes and their lands or portions of lands affected by historical alienation processes during our colonial past will take off and progress.

The post and the work to be done are budgeted for in this year's Budget. Although the contract of the Director of the Land Reform was terminated earlier this year, the CNURA Government is still committed to continue with land reform as put in place by the previous government and to explore alternative options to strengthen the existing legal framework to better address the wider societal issues of making customary land available for economic development.

The Ministry is currently consulting relevant authorities, agencies within government and will soon put a recommendation to the Executive Government on the position of the Director of Land Reform. Meanwhile the work continues under the supervision of the Assistant Director, Land Reform, who is a former Member of Parliament. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr. OTI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the Minister's opening remarks in answering the question, reference was made to different types of alienated land and I would like to raise a supplementary question in relation, perhaps to a freehold perpetual title being held by the Commissioner of Lands on behalf of the government whereby the instruments of registration still identify trustees on behalf of the landholding groups who surrendered those lands.

What is their case? Do they fall under the category of trying to sort out the clans, the tribal holders or is the document that is current valid so as not to put it in the category of investigating who the original landowners are? Whereas instances where the instruments are still valid, trustees who signed the original agreement 20 or 30 years ago are still alive, what do you do with it, do you still question the validity of their acquisition at that time or would they fall under different category to directly deal with those land holding groups through the trustees that are currently valid?

The concern is on category, where do they fall under? Is it a straight forward case or are they going to be subject to investigating who the original landowners were on behalf of whom these lands were surrendered to the crown? I will perhaps come to a specific case later on but I want the Minister to respond to that first in terms of this particular category. Will you revisit who owned the lands or are you going to deal directly with the trustees who are currently entrusted in law, Mr Speaker?

Hon. Magga: Currently there are alienated lands where evidences that were given by association are very clear that we need to transfer the title to them. And there are others where people who own the lands have already passed away so we are still trying to sort them out. I have on my desk now, two alienated land that I think has proven beyond reasonable doubt that we need to transfer the alienated land to them. As I said, there are alienated lands that are ready to go back to original land owners and there are some that are not ready because people who owned them have passed away. We are trying to sort that matter with the Attorney General's Chamber.

Mr. Waipora: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. When the Minister read out his answers, he kept on repeating land reform. Mr. Speaker, before I ask the question, in my view reconciliation and land go together because that is what we are facing. Any governments of today or tomorrow, the problem they have in the country is land, and that is why reconciliation comes in the scene.

What is the time frame of the land reform because I think the Ministry of Reconciliation also has its own time frame? What is the time frame for you to complete this work as it is a very important work that goes along with the Rural

Advancement Program? It is the time frame that I would like to know. Thank you.

Hon. Magga: Mr Speaker, I know that land issues can take a very long process. I think what is important is for the Land Reform Bill, which is now in the hands of the Attorney General. Once that is completed, I think we can set a timetable to do signing of instruments so that alienated lands can go back to the original landowners. It now depends very much on this Bill.

As I said in my answer, the senior officials in my Ministry with the Attorney General's Chamber are now working and possibly we can push the Bill in during the November Sitting. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Oti: Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for responding to the first supplementary question I have raised. Mr Speaker, I would like to request the Minister whether one of the cases before him now at his table to work on- and because of the reasons that I have mentioned earlier- the acquisition by government of the 11,000 hectares of land on Santa Cruz by 11 trustees who signed the Deed in 1970 to transfer the title. Of these 11 Trustees, six are now deceased and five are still alive, and so are still valid.

The issue now is that they are recognized and I am sure, in law, they are the original trustees and which any transfer that takes place is effected to the trustees who have given that land away in 1970. Is one of the cases before you now on your table, Mr Minister, this case of Santa Cruz? Thank, you sir.

Hon. Magga: The question from my Honourable colleague is a bit technical and it requires the clarification of the Attorney General. I can only say no.

Mr Oti: Sorry Mr Speaker, I did not hear the answer.

Hon. Magga: Mr Speaker, the file concerning Santa Cruz is yet to come to my attention but when I go back to the Office this afternoon I will try to locate it. Thank you.

Mr USA: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. The answers given by the Minister on the return of alienated lands to original landowners seems to be confusing

Land reform, Mr Speaker, I do not really figure out where it fits in with the return of alienated land with regards to the land policy. My supplementary question is this: Minister are you aware that in delaying the return of the alienated land to the original landowners, especially the lands that have already

gone through the normal process in the land policy and has completed all requirements for return- will slow down some of the major projects that the government would like to initiate on those alienated land?

Hon. LILO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Minister has already mentioned that a major part of the Land Reform that he is pursuing is the Bill that will come in the November Sitting. The delay in the return of the alienated land is not so much because of the government or the Ministry but it is because the original people that have leased those land have died and to return the land you have to return them to people who are identified and recognized by law as people who are proper and fit to replace the people that have leased the land. That is the problem that most tribes face; to find the right replacement of the trustees that have died, and to overcome that problem is what the Minister mentioned that we are trying to bring in this Bill. This is so that instead of putting the title on the hands of a few trustees, it is put on the whole tribe. This is so that tribes are recognized as the owners of land that were originally acquired through all the original documents that exist in the Registrar General. This is so that we will not have to go through the complication of finding the right people to replace the people that have died.

The land will be properly returned to customary tribes or tribe so that you do not form any new tribes. The tribes that represent the original people that have leased the land must be the original tribe. Supposing it is a big tribe but then you invent one new small tribe this will create problems. I think that is what the Minister is trying to put across. Thank you.

Mr Usa: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The answer given to me indicates that we have never read the land policy. Minister, I just want to ask a supplementary question: Is the criteria under the existing Land Policy to return the alienated land not enough to properly identify the original landowners? Thank you.

Hon. Magga: Thank you, Mr Speaker, as I have alluded in my answers, land is a very intricate issue that we need to quickly deliver on what we like. The question raised by the Honourable Member is a very important question. I take note of that and I will try to act on it. Thank you.

Mr Waipora: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. It is a question of policy, Mr Speaker? What does the CNURA policy say because there are two things when talking about alienated land: (1) land is given direct to rightful landowners through the Central government or; (2) alienated land is given down to the

provinces before the provinces deal with the rightful landowners? That is my question.

What is your policy at the moment? Are you going direct to landowners or you are going through provincial governments? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Magga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We cannot give land back to the Provinces because it will delay the whole thing. The National Government is handling all issues of land reform or alienated land. Thank you.

Mr Sogavare: Mr Speaker, just a supplementary question, and before I ask this question, in fact the point raised by the Member for North-West Guadalcanal is true. In fact there is adequate provision, for instance, under some of the existing laws, for us to facilitate the transfer of the land. I think the issue really is identification of the original landowners.

What progress has been made in identifying the original landowners because you do not need the Customary Lands and Titles Bill to actually come before Parliament before you can do that work, Mr Speaker? What progress does the government make in identifying the original landowners for the alienated lands?

Hon. Lilo: Sir, Mr Speaker, I think it is clear. Identification of original land owners has already been made. It is the identification of who are the people who are proper to hold the titles. As it is right now the Lands and Titles Act requires that land is vested under the names of the trustees on behalf of the tribes. The original people who have been vested those title on behalf of the original landowners have already died. So the process of identifying who to replace them is the problem that is always creating complications. That is what their brothers, sisters or nephews are fighting over; who should be the right and the proper person to replace their father or grandfather or whoever the original trustees were.

That is the part we have to deal with in a proper way and in accordance with the law. And as you know, it creates dispute amongst families. It creates dispute amongst families. So here we are coming into this House and say, return land to the original landowners. Yes, of course, we have to do that but you have to do it in a careful way so as not to create conflict between families and tribes. That is what we must be careful of.

What we are saying here is that we want to reform the system so that instead of causing fighting and quarreling amongst brothers, sisters, children and cousins, we must put in some proper mechanisms that land will be owned by tribes and still have that communal ownership.

These are the things we are looking at sorting out, because right now this is creating problems amongst us. In fact that is one problem that those at Santa Cruz are facing. Some people of the deceased are finding it difficult to find the right replacement. The Member for Temotu Nende did not mention this but that is the problem there.

Mr Oti: Thank you, Mr Speaker, supplementary question. The response by the Minister for Environment, and in fact that was why I asked about the categories of lands in the first place so that you delineate or separate those that you have to deal with because you have to identify the lands and those that are recognized in law are alive and their trustees. You are going to delay this because of your inability or because of the procedures or legal inability to sort this out - to separate the two.

On cases that are clear cut, is it the one that is ready on the table of the Minister? That is a clear cut one; trustees exist and subject to verification by the Minister I will say that these five deceased trustees, their representatives are currently at loggerheads over who should be the trustee. Subject to his proving that is the case then of course I will agree that it will fall within the category you are trying to sort out.

If on the other hand, the requirement is the processes in law which requires transfer through appropriate instruments of whom to take over the deceased trustee, then this also exists under the law Mr Speaker. These are the possible options.

If they dispute it then, of course, you have to go through the mitigation process. If it is clear then, of course, the Registrar and the representatives of the deceased trustees can sort that out without resorting to courts.

But the case in point, Mr Speaker, is that for it to be clear cut. Those that are clear in terms of law whereby trustees are clearly and properly indicated for transfer land; that is what I asked earlier on, whether that is what is on the Minister's table, like the case on Santa Cruz; five alive trustees, six deceased trustees who are not at loggerheads about who will replace the deceased trustees - none of them. How would you deal with such cases? Are you going to lump it up under the Land Reform or are they cases you can transfer directly under the policy? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Fono: Mr Speaker, I think the Minister of Lands had already made it very clear that land which the Member for Temotu Nende is trying to ask the Minister about has not yet been seen by the Minister. The file is yet to reach his desk.

On the question relating to the progress made so far, Mr Speaker, if we are to generalize the progress, it would not be fair because the stage of the different

alienated lands is different; that is on the question what steps and progresses have been made so far?

The progress made on the alienated land on Guadalcanal might be different to that of Temotu or the Western Province. I think the question is too general and it has been answered already by my two colleague Ministers. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Sogavare: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I will be specific then. What progress have we made in addressing the alienated land on Guadalcanal?

Hon. Magga: Mr Speaker, so far I have files with me now to make decision on and to be submitted to Cabinet for the Lungga, Tenaru and Lavuro lands and another one that I forgot. Those are the alienated lands that are ready for submission to Cabinet to be deliberated on and if possible transfer those lands directly to original landowners. Thank you.

Mr Sogavare: Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister and his Assistant Minister for answering the questions. Thank you.

Multi-purpose Stadium& International Soccer Stadium

92. **Mr WAIPORA** to the Minister for Home Affairs:

- (a) What is the progress of the construction of a multi-purpose stadium with a swimming pool?
- (b) Will the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the construction of an international standard soccer stadium?
- (b) Will the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the construction of an international standard soccer stadium?

Mr Speaker, you may laugh at “swimming pool” but that is what it says in the CNURA Policy statement and that is why I am questioning it. It is right there in the policy statement. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon TORA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to respond to the question asked by the colleague MP for West Makira. At the outset I thank the MP for asking the question.

- (a) Mr Speaker, the CNURA Government has a sports development policy that focuses largely on sports infrastructure development. Mr Speaker, file work is already in progress in transporting sectors such as soccer and

any other sectors have yet to have their infrastructure development plans for fingered into the ministries overall strategic development planning. However, Mr Speaker, I am at a loss of the project the MP for West Makira is referring to.

My investigations confirmed to me that there was no such project. There was none under the previous government that I know of. Perhaps it would be useful if the Honourable Member should further inform the House of the project he is referring to. That being said, Mr Speaker, the only project that my Ministry is already working on is the National Sports Stadium. It is going to be a multipurpose sports stadium that other sporting federations can use. Unlike the Lawson Tama which can only be used for soccer.

My Ministry has received confirmation from the Government of the Republic of China, Taiwan of its willingness to fund this project. Mr Speaker, this will be the beginning of a seven years of infrastructure development that we hope will prepare us to host the 2015 Pacific Games, if we win the bid next year to do so. Other facilities, Mr Speaker, will follow on after the National Sport Stadium.

The first phase of this project, Mr Speaker, starts with land acquisition. As I speak, Mr Speaker, a task force that was assigned to do this task has confirmed to have seen all relevant authorities and that land should be ready as soon as Cabinet makes its decision on the land identified. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

- (b) Mr Speaker, if the Honourable Member for West Makira is referring to the National Sports Stadium, as I have already alluded to, the update is that, as I speak my Ministry is now finalizing submissions to Cabinet for its decision on the site that has been identified by the National Sports Council Sports Stadium Land Acquisition Task Force. I am hopeful that this sports space will be completed soon as we are under pressure for time to submit our detail drawing and preliminary costing to the Government of the Republic of China before the end of this year if we were to expect construction work to commence by mid 2009. The schedule is very crucial to our chances in winning the bid to host the 2015 South Pacific Game as the bid to host the 2015 South Pacific Game will have to be decided in Cook Islands during the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games. We hope that getting this international sport stadium project off the ground by mid 2009, should indicate to our regional leaders the commitment and the seriousness of the government and the people of Solomon Islands place on

winning the bid to host this important regional sports event. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Waipora: Mr Speaker, supplementary question. The Minister has said that he is not going to build a multipurpose sports stadium with a swimming pool. Are you denying it, Mr Speaker?

Hon Tora: Mr Speaker, the answer to the supplementary question is that, as I have said, the policy of the CNURA Government is to improve and upgrade sporting facilities. This includes the upgrading of the current multipurpose hall. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Waipora: Mr Speaker, where then will you build the swimming pool? Will it be at Lawson Tama or at King George? We want to know this properly because as spokesman for Home Affairs in the Opposition, I want to be very clear of this. Thank you.

Hon Tora: Mr Speaker, as I have alluded to in my answers to the first question, the swimming pool is one of the facilities that is required for regional or international sports, and as I have said a Task Force has been assigned to acquire land and I am yet to take up a Cabinet Paper for Cabinet's decision. Thank you.

Mr Sogavare: Mr Speaker, referring to the involvement of ROC it is good to hear that negotiations are underway to get ROC funding. The supplementary question is, what level of commitment has ROC made, and what is the progress of the negotiations to get ROC to fund the project? Is this funding over and above the annual contribution of aid assistance of the Republic of China to Solomon Islands?

Hon. Tora: I would like to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition for asking that supplementary question. The commitment of the Republic of China, Taiwan towards this project, for your information, we are yet to submit detailed plans as to indicate the project money that can be released as first payment. But the government has a commitment under its policy and has also committed funds towards the initial stage of the project

Hon. Fono: Further to that, Mr Speaker, I think the Leader of Oppositions knows very well that there were initial discussions the Prime Minister had with the President, and they are still waiting for our submission, just like the negotiation on free education policy during his time as Prime Minister when he initiated

discussions and then the CNURA Government came in and submitted a project based on the discussions. Discussions were held between the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic of China during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Taiwan. Taiwan's commitment will be made when we actually submit our project proposal to them.

Mr. Waipora: Today we have seen young people entering into their own parliament because they have the anxious ability of doing things their own. Seeing our children compels us to do things for them in preparing them for the future. What is the time frame of the Ministry of Home Affairs' program to build the sports facilities? Are you going to start next year? I am worried because the young people are really up on us that the Ministry responsible must make sure that it pushes on in its program. What is your time frame?

Hon. Tora: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for the supplementary question. The time frame to start off this project and other improvement projects is next year, as I have said. Everything takes time; we cannot just start from the top coming down. We have to start with land acquisition and the next thing is to get the land registered under the National Sports Council, after which advertisement for the architectural work would be done before everything is compiled to be submitted to the Government of the Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, work on this project should take off the ground by 2009.

Hon. MAGGA: I just want to inform the House that my Ministry has already allocated land for this Sports Stadium. It is below the Taiwanese Rice Field. Thank you

Mr Waipora: I must thank the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Lands for answering my questions.

Assistance to Churches

93. **Mr. WAIPORA** to the Minister for Home Affairs: What form of assistance is the government providing to the churches of the country?

Hon. TORA: Mr. Speaker, I rise to respond again to the honourable Member for West Makira's question and to thank him for asking a second question.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007 government assistance to the churches are in various areas of development such as education, health, human resource development and other social development areas, which was estimated to be around \$159 million. This included \$3.9 million of one tenth money paid to the churches through Members of Parliament.

This year, government assistance to the churches through the same sectors of development is estimated to be around \$153.7 million. This figure does not include the one tenth contributions the CNURA Government intends to pay to the churches based on the 2007 surplus funds.

Mr. Speaker, under my Ministry's ongoing program for this year and next year, we are currently focusing our limited resources on the area of capacity building, providing the appropriate management training in the areas of project formulation, project management, organizational management, program management, financial management and report writing. These are crucial areas that we believe are currently lacking within our churches. For us to be able to depend on them as effective development partners, their capacity must be strengthened.

Mr. Waipora: The government's policy statement says "to provides assistance to churches". Does that mean money that is given to church National Secondary Schools is included in here or is it a separate assistance?

Hon. Tora: Sir, if my colleague had listened carefully to the answer I have given, it covers all the areas I have already mentioned in my answer.

Mr. Waipora: This statement "provide assistance to churches" could be a separate thing. You must come out clear on that. I think it is not included in the normal assistance already given as grants to National Secondary Schools.

Mr. Speaker, is it true that it is a separate thing altogether? Or is it already included in grants to Church National Secondary Schools which started 20 years ago or not?

Hon. Fono: Mr. Speaker, I think the same policy that successive governments have been doing in assisting our churches is to help church-run education institutions and church-run hospitals and at the same time respond according to requests submitted by churches.

The last government which the questioner was a part of did give similar assistance. The only new initiative is the one tenth tithe given last year of \$3.9 million based on the financial report the government produced for 2006.

The answer by the Minister of Home Affairs who is responsible for churches is very clear, in that the government continues to support churches through institutions such as education, health or hospitals, and at the same time during the supplementary budget which we have debated, the government has also informed the House that it also assisted in launching the Bible Year this year which coincided with the 30th Anniversary of Independence. If all of us have listened the radio program that coincided with the Year of the Bible was also sponsored by the Government through SICA.

I think the Minister's answer also indicated that the Cabinet has already made a decision on the one tenth, and we are just waiting for the final financial report of the government on last year's accounts before we will disburse funds to assist our churches through the one tenth policy.

Mr. Waipora: Mr Speaker, before I thank my honourable Minister for Affairs, I asked this question because groups like the women's band and Mothers Union will always keep coming to us 50 Members of Parliament and I just want to explain things to them so that they are clear that government is also assisting churches. That is the aim of my question. But I want to thank the honourable Minister for answering my questions.

Mr Speaker: That concludes question time.

MOTIONS

(Debate on the motion of sine die continues)

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, according to the adjournment of this debate yesterday, debate on the motion of adjournment sine die continues today. This debate is proposed to be considered by tomorrow before Parliament adjourns sine die.

Many Members have yet to speak to the motion, and so I again ask all honourable Members to be considerate, given our short time frame and give others ample time as well to contribute to the motion.

Hon. KEMAKEZA: Mr. Speaker, first of all I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Futsal Soccer Team to the 7th FIFA World Cup Tournament in Brazil. Because short time was given earlier this morning some of us did not have time to congratulate the team. However, since this is also an appropriate time to congratulate the team I would like to do so now.

Sir, this is a really moving and inspiring time for the country and so I also go along with other colleagues who have spoken earlier today in congratulating our team. I thank the chair for wise decision in giving time to Parliament to congratulate the team at the eve of its departure, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my Ministry and that of my people of Savo/Russells, I would like to join other colleagues in congratulating the team for successfully representing not only this country but also the Oceania Region. It is a great achievement by our young talented sportsmen for that achievement. I know it is moving and emotional because their parents are in different moods and are also emotional for their sons to represent this country at their very young stage in life. Congratulations!

Mr. Speaker, I want to contribute very briefly on the motion moved by the Prime Minister for this Parliament Meeting to be adjourned sine die. In his very brief speech, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has outlined the visions and focus of the government. He also informed this nation about the failures and successes of government programs and also of some obstacles he came across during the course of his leadership of this government and then assuring the people of this country to try improve and tidy up the lose ends. I also join him in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, part of the players were asked to continue the good working relationship with our development partners, which is crucial at this point of time in our strive and effort of rebuilding our country from the difficulties we have gone through in the last eight or ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the Ministers, backbenchers and other stakeholders for their continuous cooperation and understanding, which is very important at this time after our country has gone through difficult times. Therefore, the government urges all stakeholders - all of us to put our hands and hearts together and work together for the good cause of our country and people so that the policies and programs of the government can be realized and also warning us of challenges ahead of us. And the list goes on.

I would also like to thank the Leader of Opposition for endorsing some of the important comments by the Prime Minister. I join them all in acknowledging the understanding by our great leaders.

Certain examples were cited, Mr. Speaker, like the export of round logs in 1989, the almost near bankruptcy of the Solomon Islands Government in 1991/1993, the downfall of the then Billy Hilly Government in 1994, examining of the regime of 1995/1997, which you are also part and parcel of and also examining of the 1997/2000 Government. In their contribution they also highlighted the ethnic tension of 1998 to 2003. Corruption was also highlighted

by both local and overseas media as well as the instability of government since Independence up until now.

I also go along with another good writer who is a former greenies, an advisor to the SIDT and a one time SPM of the Leader of Opposition when he was prime minister. I have very high respect for this statesman except for his analysis of you yourself, Mr Speaker, the late MP for West Makira, the former MP for East Guadalcanal, the current MP for Simbo/Ranongga, the late MP for Aoke/Langa Langa, the current MP for East Choiseul, the current MP for Marovo and also the current MP for Savo/Russells. He has made a good analysis of us because he is a good writer. But there is only one thing the writer seems to forget and that is that when he is walking along the dusty roads he forgot to close his legs. But I have due respect for him, except when he walks along the beach he cannot hide his footprints. For example, when he was advisor to the SIDT he stopped people from cutting down trees but he himself cut down trees at West Are Are to plant coconut palms. This is just an example of him contradicting himself.

Very recently he talked about the program of SIDT as encouraging people in food security. When he was SPM he is not concerned about that at all. But now he is writing so much about that. That is a kind of person who always analyses people but does not recognize himself when walking along the beach.

That is about a writer who has analysed all of us, the lowest of which is the MP for Savo/Russells and the highest was the late former MP for Aoke/Langa Langa who has destroyed this country according to our history's record. Whether he is genuine or not just leave it as it is because only the Almighty God knows as history will tell.

Mr Speaker, I was a little bit sick this week as I am down with flu and so I am not feeling very well. And so I was trying to get some of the important issues raised by the Leader of Opposition. He said something about the 2008 Development Budget and he seemed to be like wild fire yesterday - it was like somebody setting fire on the grass hill yesterday. Who are we trying to address when we are referring to the \$217 million perhaps, Mr Speaker? The government does not have enough time yet to expend this amount of money. He spoke as if he was not well-versed with the budgeting system. Or may be he is ignorant of the system or perhaps he is trying to score points or perhaps he knows it but just wants to criticize. Mr Speaker, who are you going to lecture on this floor of Parliament?

Mr Speaker, in every successive budget it is difficult for any government to complete all the development projects within one year and every time projects have to roll over to the next financial year. But now the Leader of Opposition is pinpointing this government saying "you must implement all the projects before

the end of December". That is very difficult. Worse still, is the fact that the figures are estimates. We are making estimates or projections on the amount of revenue to be collected to implement projects, especially SIG funded projects.

How many projects during your time as a long serving Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, running almost three governments did you see your estimates on development projects fully completed within one financial year? It is not possible. That was also my experience. Therefore, for the Leader of Opposition to expect this government to do that, would seem to me like somebody who is just starting to learn how to do things.

As a former Minister of Finance, a former Permanent Secretary of Finance, a two time Prime Minister (whom I have worked with) he should understand it. I am sure he understands the way things happen. But as you know, Mr Speaker, when I was sitting on that side I also said the same thing "hey, you must it now."

But I support him on one point he mentioned, Mr Speaker, and that is on the attendance of Members of Parliament. I fully support my colleague on that point. He is telling the truth, as he is one of the MPs on record who attended every sitting and the second may be is me because I only missed when I went overseas. I fully support the point made by the Leader that this Meeting has been poorly attended. In fact I even advised the Chairman of Caucus to write to all members of the government side to make sure that they attend parliament meetings in time. This is a very important point.

For those of us who have been elected we were not elected into this House so that we come and become the prime minister or to become a minister or the leader of opposition. Mr Speaker, that is not the situation as a member of this House.

We must participate on issues that are best for our country and people. I think that is the most important commitment as lawmakers and policy makers of our country. I fully endorse my great leader, the Leader of the Opposition on that point.

On the performance of Ministers, Mr Speaker, what he said is good but no wonder they all deserted him during his term because this is like a karate man using a cane to whip people. But I think he has a point there because if you look at this side you will see that the Minister of Justice was his former Minister as well as the Minister of Police, the Minister of Youth, the Minister of Peace and even the Prime Minister and backbenchers, and the list goes on. Sometimes weakness also comes in here, but it is important that we must all work together. But I agree with him on that point.

He has also analysed the performance of Ministers and their Ministries and the Permanent Secretaries. He also said something about forestry but he has already signed an agreement with my Ministry to do downstream processing. In

fact he is the first on my list to receive the Lucas Mill for his constituency of East Choiseul. Therefore, the Minister of Forestry is still working and delivering services to the people of this country.

In saying that, I would like to thank the Republic of China, Taiwan for giving us \$5 million two months ago and just yesterday I received another \$2million for downstream processing and also reforestation of my Ministry. I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition that I think I am the first person at the last Parliament Meeting to produce a manual on the work program of my Ministry. Others have not done it but I have. However, he told me off yesterday, but that is okay because only time will tell.

Mr Speaker, the Leader has also been very critical about parliament business and also about bills that were brought before this House. Mr Speaker, there are two problems to this, in case you may have overlooked it. At the moment, Mr Speaker, in regards to bills, there is no qualified legal draftsman to draft bills because the Leader of Opposition chased away the qualified Legal Draftsman. That is the problem with the system. I can identify the problem very easily. This problem can be seen in bills brought to parliament because there are a lot of amendments or corrections to bills that came before this House. This shows something is wrong somewhere down there. The drafting area is weak because the Leader of Opposition chased the Legal Draftsman who should be here to draft bills.

In fact, when I was Minister of Police and Justice in 1989, we also had the same experience and I had to go looking for him and brought him over from the Bahamas because there was no draftsman in the AG's Chambers.

When there is problem with a legal draftsman then for sure whatever government is in power and may want to move its programs by amending laws and legislation, just forget about it. That is the reason because even the Minister of Lands and Housing mentioned earlier on today that his bill is there and it should have been brought here, and I concur with the Leader of Opposition that we want bills to come to the floor of Parliament but who is there to do it? That is what I want to be made clear because it was also my experience in the past. There are no qualified, experienced legal draftsmen or draftswomen, whoever he/she might be called. That is the problem.

Yes, we have many qualified Solomon Islanders, but do you know what happened? Every one of them ran away to work in the private sector. Yes, we have trained Solomon Islanders but two have already left; one is running his own legal firm and the other one ran away to the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal. That is the problem we have. Then we have some junior people coming from somewhere and tried to draft bills but things just went out of hand or are confusing.

I want to assure my good colleague, the Leader of Opposition that that is the problem. I was sick lying down in bed when I heard him spoke on this issue. On the 66 questions, I thank the Leader for those questions. That is quite a lot of questions being asked during this Meeting.

On labour mobility this is what I want to say. Somebody has already mentioned this in here and that is when you go fishing you put bait on the hook and throw the line into the water, you have to make sure you do not throw stones into the water after that because the fishes will runaway. The person who made the fishes to run away is the Leader of Opposition. Yesterday he was jumping up and down like wildfire saying "we do not have any problems with Australia except for its aid policies that I want to put my foot down on". I am also with him sometimes on that point that they gave us \$10 but they took back from us \$9 and only \$1 remains. But the Leader of Opposition does not realize that he was the one who expelled the High Commissioner. He also deported the Commissioner of Police, and therefore, it is not easy as he would like to think. It is not easy to start a relationship today and tomorrow expect it to be firm.

Yes, our Prime Minister went to Canberra and met with the Prime Minister of Australia, but it will take some time to fully realize and restore our friendship. It cannot be quickly restored because I do not expect the Leader of Opposition when he was Prime Minister to say words like, "I caught you in your pants down". Such a sentiment is unbecoming of a leader. We do not expect such words to come from a leader of a country. That sort of sentiment can only come from wild people living in the forests and the mountains.

This is just to put records right, Mr Speaker before I move on to the Ministry of Forestry. Forestry is like this, Mr Speaker. There are three policies given by this government to my Ministry to achieve. One is downstream processing, which as I have said the Leader of Opposition is the first on my list to be given a Lucas Mill. In the course of this week he is going to get one as well as others.

Also someone speaking yesterday said that Lucas mills should only be given to places qualified to have them, like West Makira where there are many trees, East Choiseul, North Vella, Central Kwara'ae, or Marovo and not constituencies like Central Honiara, West Honiara, East Honiara or Savo/Russells because it is just a small island with no trees. That is a good point but even though the MP for West Honiara is given one he can still use it on his land at Malaita, so we can still give it to him. He is qualified to get one, and will continue to get something from us.

The other policy is planting of trees or reforestation. On this, I am grateful that the Ministry of Forests is working on an \$18 million reforestation program.

We hope that by the end of this year we will make a full report to Parliament as requested by the Leader of Opposition.

Last night when I looked through the Auditor General's Report, it seems to me that none of the ministries know anything about accounting. That is what the report shows. That seems to be the case, Mr Speaker. Even the Ministry of Finance was criticized in the report; the Ministry that taught us accounting. There were comments even made about the Public Service in the report, as well as the Prime Minister's Office. It singled out the Prime Minister as receiving some money and failing to make retirement on the money. Some former and present Ministers are also mentioned as not retiring money.

Is this report biased and our people do not know anything? That seems to be the case. There are no documents, no records, and no figures to reconcile, no bank accounts, no nothing. That is what this report is saying. So where do we go from here, Mr Speaker?

Forestry is also mentioned in this report. It says that the distribution of Lucas mills was politicized. I do not know who politicized the distribution. I do not think the Leader of Opposition politicized it because he is an honest man because he will only get his mill this time, and so I congratulate him for that.

I do not believe so much in giving a full report here, which I did in the last Meeting of Parliament but nobody seems to read the report because they keep asking me questions and maybe tomorrow a question will be asked. But have you not read that in the report that I have given you during the last meeting of Parliament? I will answer whoever is going to ask a question on this tomorrow by telling him to read my report that I have tabled in the last meeting of Parliament. That is for that one, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, we started off this country by planting coconut plantations. We only have coconut plantations with may be a little bit of trochus but one thing is that during those days the plantations were commercial plantations. Then during the 70's and 80's during your time, Mr Speaker, you add on Soltai fishing and oil palm, which broadens our economic base a bit. That was in the 70's, 60's. And then from 2000 and up until now what is it? I am asking because it was the commodities that had been put in place during those days are what we are still enjoying today.

Here we are jumping up and down talking about broadening our economic base. Somebody also talked about so many millions of dollars being spent in the systems but nothing is happening. Like the Member for Central Makira who almost broke this thing last week talking about broadening our economic base and so on, which is true, Mr Speaker.

But supposing this is what we are experiencing now because if we want to broaden the economic base of our country then we must identify what areas we

are going to broaden. That is why this government has put forestry so that we plant many more trees because we are experiencing a decline on our natural forests. In five, six or 10 years time there will be no natural forests left. Therefore, my Ministry is very mindful of that and so it is replanting trees for our future generations so that we bridge the gap. But the gap in between when this important revenue base is lost and the time when the trees are ripe is what we must try to recoup.

I sit down to think about this and I thought of the mining sector, but the mining sector takes five to six years. What about the tourism industry? Yes, may be but it also takes time because we have just come out of the ethnic tension and tourists are still scared to visit this country, they are still worried about malaria, and so where would be our recouping area. This is where it is very important for us to talk with our development partners so that they bridge this gap somewhere and somehow.

When we talk about the forestry sector, we are talking about the various resources where 70% of our foreign earnings, 17% of our economy and also 14% goes down to our people in the country. Please, I would like to ask all of you my colleagues that let us go back and plant more trees. That is important.

When a question is asked to the Minister of Lands and Housing about Santa Cruz, which myself and the MP for Temotu Nende are doing a program on agro forest now to improve that land and hopefully that land will go back so that we can also be very mindful and we must also learn from our mistakes.

What happened was that the government acquired the land before, and I am very pleased with the Leader of Opposition who wanted all lands to go back to people. I support him on that, and this is for development purposes. And the trial project on that is GPPOL. The government used to own that land and so it had been receiving royalty more than the resource owners. Since when did the government own that land? Give back that land to the people as it belongs to them. That is exactly what we did at that time and it is happening now where royalty goes to resource owners, the government goes out, it is not involved but waits to collect tax. That is the trend we are going with Santa Cruz and Vangunu. We are talking a lot about Vangunu this time but the Vangunu project is about 10 years ago you. I know you can remember it, Mr Speaker. It is not SIAC, but it is a GNUR project. Today, according to the Minister's report only 1,000 hectares has been planted and therefore a factory cannot be set up for 1,000 hectares. More than 6,000 hectares has to be planted before a mill factory can be set up. In fact we have to revisit that, and I am happy the Minister is reviewing this program. The Member of Parliament for that area is a very talented man because he was successful with the GPPOL and I am hopeful he can also look into Vangunu.

What I am trying to say in this motion, Mr Speaker, is if forestry is going down how are we going to recoup the loss. That is the point I am driving at. Is it tourism, agriculture, mining, fisheries or what? This is where everyone of us needs to put our heads together and go for that one so that the economic base of our country is sustained in future whilst waiting for this resources to be ready.

Mind you, forest resource is a renewable resource. Anyone who says that forests or trees cannot grow must be living in a different planet. It is renewable but it does take time, may be 25 to 28 years and then it is ready. That is the focus of my Ministry for the information of this Parliament and the public as our natural forests is scaling down. Of course, we have to consider a fair price on the export of round logs and that is why there is a slight increase on the determined value schedule, and which is making someone to jump up and down, but anyway we tested it out.

Mr Speaker, I will now come to two points talked so much about on this floor of Parliament. One is food security, which was already covered and the other one is fuel. In my view, Solomon Islands has a great future and potential on fuel. I have already suggested to the Minister, who is not here, and also to the government then of the Leader of Opposition but it did not take it up, is the idea to connect the volcano in Savo to light up the whole of Guadalcanal. The power is there in Savo and yet we are looking around for it. Help those of us in that small island in setting up what is called a volcanic power authority there, take power from there and light up this town and the whole of Guadalcanal.

Sir, I have just come back from a course last week, and that is why I did not attend Parliament for one week, and during the meeting we talked about nothing but fuel and power. Australia is driving towards that because fossil fuel is going up. For those of you in the Western Province you could get power from Simbo or from the sea in the constituency of the Minister of Finance or Vella La Vella because there are volcanoes there. Even that power can be supplied as far as to Bougainville and get foreign money into the country. Those in the Eastern District can make use of the Tinakula volcano to subsidize the cost of fuel.

I suggested to the Minister to do a research on this because I believe some countries in the world are doing this. This is a suggestion on this problem of food security and rising cost of fuel. We are talking about telling our people to go back to eating root crops and not living on rice. Those of you in Honiara eat rice a lot but those of us at home are not.

Sir, if my suggestion is taken onboard in the future there will be no problem of power in this country. That is the point here. Western Province can be served by the Simbo volcano or Vella La Vella. The Minister of Public Service and I have talked about this already as well as the Minister of Finance.

Another new development also being discussed during the workshop I attended is carbon credit. This is quite a complex issue and needs careful investigation, more consultations and more discussions into it. It is good revenue but we will see as we go along. This is starting to be discussed in PNG. I think the only country that is currently being looked into is the Amazon basin in Brazil, and this is because of climate change.

Now I would like to make a few observations on this Parliament Meeting itself, which has been analysed by somebody yesterday, even calling for SICHE students to come and make an assessment on the facts of the meeting and its cost implications, which is a waste of public funds. To me, it is not a waste but a historical parliament meeting. Although five weeks is long but it goes down in the history of this country, and that is especially that clock. Last time when we were meeting in here there was no clock. The address of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester to Parliament is history. For somebody to say it is a waste is wrong. That would seem to me somebody is not doing his/her homework to analyse this Meeting of Parliament as a waste.

The reason why bills did not come in time to the House must be blamed on the Bills Committee and the Legal Draftsman. Those are the two areas that delayed the tabling of bills in the House, and not your office, Sir. When your office sees the bills are straight it tabled them after the Bills Committee deliberated on it. Or perhaps the Bills Committee was not ready because even the Civil Aviation Bill was just considered by the committee the day before yesterday

Sir, we also celebrated the 30th independence anniversary of our country during this meeting. This is also history. During the course of this meeting we also attended very important get-togethers. Only one motion that is useless during this meeting was the motion of no confidence. It is a useless motion that holds no water and nothing in it. Although there are only eight people who supported it but it was tabled. What for! It is a total waste of Parliament's time and effort, no more no less. It is a useless motion that has ever come to the floor of this Parliament.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill is a very, very important bill. In fact it is a program of the Leader of Opposition when he was prime minister and we just come to bless it in here. It is his Bill and so it is an opportunity for us to bless that Bill so that the Ministry can implement it. He has already appointed the commissioners but now he turns around and said this is a totally useless Parliament meeting and is asking for school children to come and calculate it. What for?

The Secured Transactions Bill by the Minister of Finance, my goodness, is a very, very important Bill. This is the first kind of bill in the history of this

country that would give opportunity to our people to access money in the financial institutions so that they develop their resources that we talked so much about on this floor of Parliament because we fail to give them the RCDF, money that comes through us for development purposes. That is a very important bill.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill is also very important because we do not anticipate high cost of fuel, cost of goods, water, light and overseas travel and so on, and that is why it is very important that we bless it so that government programs can continue. Unlike what the Leader of Opposition said yesterday that \$132million is coming but we would not be able to implement government programs. I think the Leader of Opposition and MP for Rendova must first learn the budgetary process and how to implement the budget before they come to Parliament and talk. That is the behaviour of people who do not understand the budgetary process.

I now come to the second last observation on my list, and I will abide by your ruling, Mr Speaker, and that is to acknowledge yourself. I must thank you for the manner in which you conduct this meeting. I also thank your Deputy, a very hardworking Deputy Speaker. Although I read your articles on the Paper you have done a great job for our country. The flower on your side, Mr Speaker, is beautiful. But this time you did very well. I congratulate for you that. Last time when I sat down on that chair there was no flower. This time there is flower around this House, and so I thank the ladies who decorated us with flowers. It is very beautiful, admirable and makes Parliament come alive. I thank the Clerk, your Deputy and your staff for that. I also thank those who provide food for us in the kitchen. There are so many eggs sold here than the Chinese shops down there, Mr Speaker.

The Prime Minister and his Deputy must also be thanked for going through challenges. I know it is not easy to be in leadership positions. The Leader of Opposition knows very well what I am talking about. Whoever thinks it is easy should go and try it because you will get a heart attack. That is why I ended up in court and tomorrow will be my sentencing day. So it is not easy and so I thank the Ministers, the backbenchers, Permanent Secretaries and their staff for preparing papers for this Parliament Meeting, although the Leader of the Opposition seemed to light up a wildfire by criticizing them, but I acknowledge them for work well done by our public servants.

The RAMSI and the Police must also be thanked for providing security. During the motion of no confidence some of us were told not to come to Parliament as there is going to be another riot. Goodness me, riot all the time! So I thank them for providing security to us.

I also thank the media and One News. In fact I did not know but I was told by someone that whilst I am speaking right now the public are watching us

on the TV. I do not know if that is true. I did not realize this otherwise I should have been in full suit before coming in here. But that is very good and that is being transparent because whatever we say here is heard by the people so that they do not question our behaviour and whatever we say in here, the answers we give and so on are known to the people. I thank the media for that.

I also thank the general public for the peaceful manner in which they behave by taking in whatever we say in here as that is our duty. And so I thank the general public for their understanding and tolerance by not taking the law into their own hands to disturb parliament.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure my people of Savo/Russells that the Minister for Police is taking care of their police station, the Minister for Tourism is taking care of their tourism projects, the Minister for Health and Education is taking care of their welfare and health, which is very essential to people of this country. The Minister for Agriculture is taking care of food security. Even the Minister for Conservation who is not here is requesting us to try and conserve our megapode fields for our future, which is very important.

My apology is to any one of you whom I may have offended during my debate. I have never ever taken politics personal or hold personal grudges against anyone, but if I do please forgive me. I always speak out what is on my mind and finish. The Leader of Opposition has rightly told us very clearly yesterday that our parliament is not like other parliaments we have been to or have seen where the Opposition goes that way and the government goes in the opposite direction. There is one thing good about the Solomon Islands Parliament that even though we argue in here, out there we are brothers. We always display good Christian values. It is only in here that we throw mud at each other but outside we are friends. And so my apologies if I ever hurt anyone, and please forgive me.

Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 12:45pm to 2:30pm

(Debate on the Sine Die motion continues)

Hon. PACHA: Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute very briefly to this motion of sine die.

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition for their contribution, in particular the Leader of Opposition for raising his concern on the need to strengthen provincial governments to go beyond mere financial support to more tangible infrastructure developments. I fully support the Leader of the Opposition on his call but it has always been the

case that in life we have many ambitions, but practically not all of our ambitions can be implemented at one time. In order to become successful, it has been conventionally accepted that when we have limited resources we must prioritize.

In the case of provincial government strengthening, Mr. Speaker, we ourselves have noted that over the years, there has been lack of financial accountability, professional administration support, good governance and transparency in the management of provincial affairs. It is very important therefore that we give priority to what should come first. To provide infrastructure and other related developments to people who cannot account for funds is sometimes like throwing money into the ocean. It serves no purpose because we are not able to see how funds are being spend, and in most cases as we have seen in the past, failures. We get no outcome from spending our financial resources without prioritizing which should come first. In fact in many cases, we have been putting the cart before the horse.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, it is not wrong to say that provincial governments have been caught in a vicious circle over the years with limited resources, lack of management, financial capacity, good governance and transparency. Why should we talk about creating infrastructures when this vicious circle is not broken? My Ministry is embarking on this priority and that is why the Provincial Government Strengthening Programme (PGSP) is being carried out to build the capacity of our provinces for effective service delivery. This is a government program jointly supported by our donor partners namely, the UNDP, UNCDF, EU and RAMSI. Because of its importance, the Solomon Islands Government, under my Ministry, is providing a matching fund slightly more than SBD\$5 million against the same amount being provided by aid donors. As part of the capacity building exercise, this additional \$10 million will be injected to provinces with certain minimum conditions with no restrictions on what the funds can be used for. This is a discretionary fund for provincial governments, and it is referred to under the PGSP as Provincial Capacity Development Fund.

While it provides discretion for provincial governments, the bottom line is that provincial governments must develop provincial plans and give priority on what their intentions are. They are required to provide financial accountability on how funds are spent. The whole idea is to help provincial governments manage and held accountable for funds given to them. Once provincial governments are shown to develop and consolidate on financial management capacity, we can be sure of expanding to other priorities with confidence.

On this note, Mr. Speaker, my Ministry has already prepared SBD\$5 million matching fund and we are waiting for donor partners to provide their

part so that provinces can receive their shares as soon as possible under the PGSP.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the initial test for the minimum conditions for provinces to access the Provincial Capacity Development Fund, seven out of nine provinces have qualified and will receive their shares as soon as donor partners provide their part. This is a good sign in terms of improvement as the introduction of good accounting practices and transparency have been provided to provinces under conditions to make every attempt to improve and access the PCDF.

Mr. Speaker, I am also glad to inform this House that the Premiers' Conference is now confirmed to be held at Lata from the 8th to 12th September and will be hosted by Temotu Province at its Provincial Headquarter. My Ministry has finalized all arrangements and we look forward to seeing all resource people from participating ministries in Lata. I would like to sincerely thank the honourable Prime Minister for accepting to come to Lata to open the Premiers' Conference.

Mr. Speaker, allow me now to briefly comment on the policy of the CNURA Government on reconciliation and rehabilitation. Sir, the CNURA Government places high priority on the process of implementation of reconciliation and rehabilitation as a way forward in normalizing deteriorating relationship and a milestone for further rural and national developments. Sir, this is a policy worthy of welcome by national and provincial political leaders, the NGOs, the churches, business houses and ordinary citizens of this nation.

Sir, it is heartening to note the progress of reconciliation in some of our communities. Some of these dynamic reconciliation events were being conducted in the absence of public awareness but so meaningful to parties involved. Mr. Speaker, I for one believe that the spirit of seeking peace and harmonious relationship has began and is continuing in our islands initiated by church and community leaders. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, we politicians should do well not to downgrade those tremendous achievements for our own political expediency.

Sir, at this juncture, let me now comment on reconciliation accomplished on South Guadalcanal Constituency, which I represent in this honourable House. Sir, reconciliation may still be an abstract ideology to some of my honourable colleagues in this Chamber. However it is an historical event for the honourable Member for South Guadalcanal constituency and his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to represent South Guadalcanal Constituency, two of my priorities for my people are reconciliation and rehabilitation. To date, sir, I am pleased to confirm the successful accomplishment of one of these priorities, namely reconciliation.

Sir, last year 2007 was characterized by reconciliation after reconciliation in my constituency. It was so moving to witness reconciliation between communities, different parties and language groups. Mr. Speaker, the culmination of all layers of reconciliation on South Guadalcanal was completed on the 28th December last year hosted at Peochakuri village. This one day crucial event attracted crowds of witnesses from all stakeholders including CNURA Government. Sir, I am humbled to see evidence of the fruition of this vision to unite my people after years of disintegration, conflict and destruction. Peace now returns to South Guadalcanal.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to elaborate on the significance of reconciliation for people. I am proud to note the following significances: First, the people themselves own these reconciliations; it springs out of their very own hearts. It was a heart-to-heart experience. Secondly, the involvement of cultural standards and values in settling conflicts. The expertise of our traditional chiefs greatly contributed to obtaining peace. Thirdly, sir, is the application of Christian principles in involving conflicts mediated by church leaders. It was encouraging to note some cases of conflicts were resolved through prayer and forgiveness. And fourthly, the people themselves bear responsibility for most of the expenses in materializing the reconciliations. Sir, it cost my people all they had for the purpose of attaining true peace and unity.

Mr. Speaker, I must also admit the imperfection of reconciliation on South Guadalcanal in the context of crimes involved in the Weather Coast conflict. Some people somehow may deny its significance and relevance. Sir, however, negative comments critics may say regarding these reconciliations, I am proud to claim that out of the 50 Members of this honourable House, only the Member of Parliament for South Guadalcanal constituency, none other than the one now speaking, had a true heart to reconcile his people. Sir, I did not merely speak about reconciliation and peace, I led my people to achieve peace, forgiveness and unity.

Mr. Speaker, also at this point, I want to remind us, particularly the Opposition side, to be a little bit careful on whoever is supplying information to them about the situation at Weather Coast because I am aware that those who are coming to give information on the situation at the Weather Coast, I called them the Honiara's Weather Coast because they are people living around in Honiara who do not know what the situation on the ground over there is like.

On this note, Mr Speaker, I am sincerely obliged to acknowledge the tremendous assistance of the following stakeholders who contributed towards the success of South Guadalcanal Reconciliation: the heartier assistance of the National Government towards materializing this exercise; the logistic support of RAMSI was the paramount contribution to the success of this vital program.

Thank you RAMSI for truly demonstrating that your mission here is to assist Solomon Islands attain genuine and lasting peace; the courageous leadership and mediatory role played by our chiefs and church leaders in mediating a meaningful reconciliation that satisfies conflicting parties; the self initiative and commitment by the ordinary people of South Guadalcanal in embracing reconciliation as achievable.

Mr Speaker, having highlighted the referred reconciliation I am also duty bound in recommending two outstanding reconciliations for South Guadalcanal. Firstly, that the Guadalcanal Provincial Government reconciles with South Guadalcanal for its involvement in the Weather Coast Conflict. Secondly, the National Government needs to reconcile with South Guadalcanal over the use of its state owned patrol boat and high powered ammunition in its operation at the Weather Coast waters and environment. Sir, the patrol boat meant to protect and salvage citizens of this nation has been utilized then to destroy its very own people. Mr Speaker, South Guadalcanal is ever ready for this next reconciliation. Once this is done it will restore the confidence of my people on both the National and Guadalcanal Provincial Government.

Mr Speaker, with the passage of the Truth and Reconciliation Bill, in the light of the completed reconciliation on South Guadalcanal I am requesting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to register these acts of reconciliation as paramount historical events. Mr Speaker, with the restoration of peace and normalcy on South Guadalcanal the priority need worth addressing and implementing now is rehabilitation for my people.

Sir, you know very well the catastrophes and devastations experienced by my people during the Weather Coast operation beside the loss of human lives, properties were destroyed and business were lost. Sir, my people are desperately waiting now for the big rehabilitation in their homes, properties and business as well as improvement to health and education services.

Sir, rehabilitation is one of the priority policies of the CNURA Government thus I am more positive that South Guadalcanal should be considered and deserves allocation to benefit first from the implementation of the government's national rehabilitation policy.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion I would like to join voices with my other colleagues who have already spoken in acknowledging the following whose leadership and assistance greatly contributed to the success of this current Parliament Meeting: to you the Honourable Speaker, and your Deputy for rightly guiding the day to day business of this House with godly wisdom; to the Clerk and your smart working staff for preparing all formalities in time for the meeting; to the Parliament Guards for ensuring that this highest decision making body is conducted in a safe environment free from external disturbances; to the

good wives of government ministers and the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime for their floral arrangements which really beautifies this Honourable House.

Mr Speaker, these floral arrangements reminds me of the wisdom of God the Creator displayed in the beautiful Garden of Eden, the natural glory of the Heavenly Majesty that filled the Garden of Eden. Sir, I also learn one very good reflection on this floral arrangement for us leaders. The character of all of us should be one of godly beauty and domain. I would also like to extend my thanks to Christians and churches nationwide for praying for the current meeting and for the government. Your prayers are the foundation of this nation. To all Provincial Premiers and Members of your Provincial Assemblies, thank you for providing much needed services to our rural populace. To Honiara residents thank you for your peaceful behaviour right throughout the current meeting and especially during the motion of no confidence.

Finally to my good church leaders, chiefs and people of South Guadalcanal Constituency, thank you for your support. Continue to maintain peace and unity you are now experiencing. I am planning to visit our constituency after this Parliament meeting.

Mr Speaker, with these acknowledgements I support the motion.

Hon GUKUNA: Mr Speaker, I would like to also thank the Honorable Prime Minister for bringing this meeting to close by moving this motion of *sine die*. According to this motion, Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank your good-self and your Deputy for the very important role you have played in guiding the proceedings of this House during the past weeks. None of us here should complain as your hardworking staff did a fine job looking after the affairs of these meetings, and of course the welfare of Honourable Members of this House. Thank you so much.

Mr Speaker, the meeting came and pass us with everything. We had the supplementary appropriation bill, which will allow normal government services to continue. We had a few important bills, private motions, many questions, discriminations from the floor as usual, and of course we have arguments. And of course, Mr Speaker, we also had the no confidence motion to which this House was able to confirm its support for the Honourable Prime Minister and his government. This overwhelming support for this government that resulted from this motion also amounts to an overwhelming endorsement of the Opposition and the crucial role it continues to play since this government took up office in late December last year.

Mr Speaker, I believe the Opposition we now have in this House is the best Opposition that this country has ever had. It has not allowed this

government to make a single step without being watched and checked. I just could not imagine what it would do if it has more than what it has at present.

Mr Speaker, I listened carefully yesterday with interest to the analysis the Honourable Leader of Opposition gave about this House during his contribution to this motion in which he pointed out that the efficiency of this particular meeting in terms of costs is \$100,000 for business. Mr Speaker, I quite agree and if this is the rate we have been going in disposing business at \$100,000 then that is very poor. That is very poor performance and I will think that this information should be very useful for you, Sir, as you could use it to demand some efficiency from this House in our future meetings.

I disagree though, Mr Speaker, with what the Leader of Opposition said yesterday about the opposing views that I and my very close friend, the Deputy Prime Minister and Honourable MP for Central Kwara'ae expressed during our contributions to the private motion moved last Friday by the Honourable MP for Temotu Nende on the need to re-look at how the RCDF is being managed, especially our opposing views on how to better distribute the RCDF money between our constituencies, Mr Speaker. Let me make it clear that the Deputy Prime Minister was not affirming any government position on the distribution of the RCDF. I want to also make it clear that had the Deputy Prime Minister stood to reaffirm the position of this government on the distribution of the RCDF, I would not have stood up and said what I said, as it would be out of place for me to disagree with my Deputy Prime Minister on what he said.

I do not know whether he missed the point raised by the Deputy Prime Minister or he intentionally cooked the whole thing to make a point but had the Honourable Leader of Opposition listened properly to statements made by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable MP for Centra Kwara'ae, he would have picked up that the Deputy Prime Minister and the MP for Central Kwara'ae was referring to a paper he wrote in which he raised his views on the use of a possible mechanism of distributing the RCDF between our constituencies in the country. The Deputy Prime Minister was quoting from that paper. He was not affirming any government's position. He was simply raising a view he expressed in a paper he wrote.

The opposing views that we said therefore, Mr Speaker, were merely two different academic opinions on the issue of the RCDF distribution and must not be taken out of context to say that they constitute a major contradiction in the government's position on the RCDF.

Also let me qualify this view by saying that I am not aware of any new government's position on the distribution of the RCDF between our constituencies except what is being used right now.

Other than this concern, Mr Speaker, I must say again that this Opposition is doing a very fine job and I think we should allow them to sit in the Opposition for the rest of this House, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker I have already thank you for guiding over these meetings and I must also apologise to you, Sir, for being absent during the first week of this meeting; I was actually absent attending to national duties overseas. Specifically, Mr Speaker, I was out to assure and confirm to the indigenous people of the entire Pacific, from the Republic of China in the West to the Arizona in the Mainland USA in the East, from Christmas Islands up North to the indigenous people of Aoteroa in the far South New Zealand and Australia, that Solomon Islands will be hosting in 2012 the festival of Pacific Arts here in Honiara, less than four years from now. This was at the recent 10th Festival of Pacific Arts that was being successfully held in American Samoa late July early August, some four weeks ago.

Mr Speaker I am proud to say that our participation at this Festival was point-on job well done; hot cake if you like. We came out of this Festival very confident and determined that we will put up the most impressive festival of Pacific Arts here in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 2012 and we will build on our success in American Samoa. We will do this not only for the sake our cultures, Mr Speaker, but we will do this also for the prestige and the pride that will come with it.

Mr Speaker, this is something that we must look forward to; the courage that will come with this festival, the telecast, the commentaries, the word of mouth, the people, and number of nations that will attend this festival. In terms of geography, Mr Speaker, a third of the entire world would be converging on these islands in 2012. This makes this event the single most important event that this country will ever host for a long period of time. Sir, tourism opportunities that will come with this festival is going to be enormous. We will make sure that we do everything we can do to capture every single one of them.

Talking about our success during the Festival of the Pacific Arts, Sir, allow me to express my sincere thanks to all the dancers, the artists, the officials, and the entire delegation who responded so well to the national call for representation during this festival. I thank the parents and the spouses too for allowing their relations to travel abroad on this call. Sadly, and as you aware, one of our artists succumbed to standing illness and passed away. My sympathy goes out to his real family.

Mr Speaker, notwithstanding the incredible role our artists played. Our successes in American Samoa were due mainly to the unwavering support of this government. For the first time, Sir, we have had no problem with funding and this helps make our job much easier. I would like to take this moment to

sincerely thank this government for supporting the contingent we sent to American Samoa and for backing our travel to the Festival.

Mr Speaker I travelled to Pago Pago via the Independent State of Samoa, Western Samoa as it was used to be called. While transiting through Samoa I noted a few interesting things, apart from the nice roads and very impressive sports infrastructure. As I was travelling from the airport I noted that at 100 metres you travel there is a church; in every 100 or 200 metres you will find a number of churches and this is the same in American Samoa. And I thought to myself that I hope these churches make these people behave well because if this is the case then this is a good idea that may be we should spend money constructing churches after churches in our settlements and in our villages as maybe this will make our people behave properly. But I was thinking too that I hope these people do not steal and rowdy like the ones in Honiara who go to church every Sundays and every Sabbaths but whenever anything happen along the streets they take the lead to do all sorts of bad things.

Mr Speaker, I was also listening to a radio station and I heard the news about this poor public servant who was being put on trial for misusing SBD\$7,000.00. And I said to myself, this man is working in the wrong country. He should be working here in Solomon Islands where public servants misuse millions of dollars and never go to prison, not even to court. The Solomon Islands public servants are amongst the most audited in the region but no one seems to be doing anything about these audits.

Arriving in American Samoa, Sir, we drove around the city and I noted that in preparation for this Festival they dressed up all the trees, the posts and electrical poles and put around them very beautiful lavalavas and they have been dressed for four, five weeks well before the Festival. And what amazes me was that after a long time the lavalavas were still there.

In 2012, Mr Speaker, when we host this Festival we will probably be doing the same by trying to decorate our posts and our street posts, the trees and the coconuts, and I just want to say to the residents of Honiara: "Please do not strip those things naked, leave those lavalavas alone because they are there for a purpose. But that was what I noted over there.

Mr Speaker, as I travelled through Fiji, Samoa and American Samoa, the most powerful statement I got was that these countries are getting better off. These countries are getting more organised because of tourism. They are supplementing their income with substantial proceeds from their tourism sectors. This is exactly where we want to be, Sir, to be able to supplement our income with proceeds from tourism. If these small countries can do this, we can do it too. This is a much, much bigger country. If these copra based economies can make it, we can do it too.

But our size as a bigger country does not matter here. We will waste our time talking about how big this country is, we will waste our time talking about the potential of our tourism, we will sit here all day talking about it. The difference between us and them is that they have and are investing heavily in tourism.

Mr Speaker, if we want tourism to support our economy it is time to make some realistic investments in tourism. We cannot afford to wait because our neighbours are benefiting from it because there is sure return in tourism. But as you know when you peanuts in tourism you will get peanuts. You invest more you will get dividends, and that dividends is guaranteed.

Mr Speaker, the VIP driver that picked me up from the airport in Apia and dropped me of at the same airport was a really nice police officer. He was nice because when we were driving to the city and back to the airport he continued to say some very nice things about Solomon Islands. He was talking about how beautiful this country is and the potential that we have as a tourist country. He was talking about Isabel, and how beautiful Isabel is. He was talking about Tulagi and how beautiful Tulagi is. How beautiful these places are. He talked about Honiara and how he hopes to come back to this country sometimes in the near future.

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether this nice police officer was just being nice to this Minister of Tourism by saying these nice things about Solomon Islands or what he said was his true and irresistible admiration of the beauty of this country. But, Mr Speaker, if he told me that his time in this country was hell for him, I would have accepted what he said and I would not blame him because this is the same police officer who was stoned with another RAMSI Officer by settlers in one of our settlements here in Honiara in 2006. Mr Speaker, how he was able to rise above the near death experience he received from this country and still able to say some good things about Solomon Islands, got me speechless for a moment.

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the two expatriates who were bashed up outside the Aloha night Club some weeks ago would still be able to say any good thing about this country. If they say something bad about this country we cannot blame them. But the bashing of these expatriates at the Aloha Nightclub is something that this country cannot afford, and we must act to put a stop to this. If that nightclub is going to be the place for bashing expatriates then this country does not need the Aloha Night Club. I must make it clear to the management of the Aloha Club that their duty is to ensure that people who go there are safe and are well looked after. That is my position, Sir, but honestly if I have the power I will not hesitate to shut down that Night Club – the Aloha Night Club.

First, Sir, it is sitting at the wrong place, it should be sitting at a backstreet somewhere and not in the main Highway of Honiara, and secondly that club tarnishes the public image of this city. We had expected to see more acceptable investment activities happening on that piece of prime land, not what is happening there right now.

Mr Speaker, one weekend I was at home and my daughters returned a little bit late in the evening and I noticed that their hair smells smoke, and so I questioned them where they have been. They said they have been to the Aloha Club and so I asked them what have they been doing there, and they said that they went to attend a promotion by one of the FM Stations at the nightclub. It was promoting our youths, our talented youths at that nightclub. Mr Speaker, I see this particular station as totally irresponsible. While we are trying to keep our children away from these places, here they are promoting youth activities right in night clubs at the busy hour of the weekend.

Mr Speaker, I went overseas not only interested in tourism activities there but I also take time to check out the fuel cost in Fiji, Samoa and American Samoa. It was very interesting to note that the costs of diesoline in those countries are almost the same as what we have here in Honiara. The fuel cost is basically the same in those countries as well as this country.

For the sake of those people who are interested to know a little bit more about why our fuel costs have gone up, you would remember that a few weeks back the cost of fuel went up as high as USD\$174 per barrel. Six years ago the price was only USD\$19. And about 4 to 5 weeks later the price shoots up to USD\$174 a barrel for crude oil. One barrel of crude oil contains 159 litres of crude, and so if you divide those figures or work those figures out, already the crude oil is US\$1.10 per cent. That comes out to about SI\$9 crude. That still has to go through the refinery, through the process of adding additives, and that still has to go through the logistic system. So you understand that on top of that \$9 crude, you would have about \$3 or \$4 on top of that crude price. That should explain why our fuel cost went up.

Mr Speaker, what concerns me on what is happening outside the oil industry is something that we cannot really do something about it. We are not the United States so that we can tell our people that in the next few years we will come out with some alternatives, but the best we can hope for is that the World Markets has dropped and if you care to follow the spot prices and the positive prices of oil it is averaging about US\$106 per barrel. So hopefully those reductions will also reflect in our fuel cost locally.

But what has been of concern to me, Mr Speaker, in terms of our fuel is the situation that exist between our two oil suppliers; the SPO and Markwarth. As you know, Sir, before these two operators came into existence, our fuel suppliers

were supplied by Mobil Australia and Shell Pacific Islands Propriety Limited. These two companies are professional companies; their business is oil and they work together so closely, sharing logistics, sharing onshore costs, distribution, storage and by doing that they were able to keep the cost of fuel at a lower level as much as they possibly could. This situation is not happening right now between the two oil suppliers. They are doing different things. The Markwath Oil is insisting that it should bring its own tankers, and the SPO is bringing its own tankers, and as a result tankers come into the country almost every two or three weeks. This is one company bringing its own tanker. The problem with bringing these tankers is that they come here empty and this is doubling the marine charges on those tankers. In fact, if you see the new tank in the SPO terminal, that tank is a direct result of the fact that they could not work together to share their storage facilities.

Mr Speaker, my colleagues have raised a few sentiments about food costs, and so I also checked out to what is happening with rice in the countries I have been to. I asked them about rice and they said that rice is not a big issue to them. In fact, the outlets that we went and bought food from hardly sell rice, but instead sell cassava, potatoes and taro. The price of rice has gone up too, and with this massive increase in rice cost, I would like to think that "behind every black cloud there is a silver lining", says an old statement I came across some years back. Behind every black cloud hopefully there is a silver lining. And I would like to say the same thing too about rice. A lot of colleagues in here and a lot of people in this country are advocating that this country should be less dependent on aid. We should move away from aid money, get rid of them. Mr Speaker, you would realize that there is one thing that is doing more damage to this country and that is rice. This country is getting heavily dependent on rice.

Mr Speaker, people in my constituency or province are amongst those who consume rice the most in this country. I have not looked at the statistics but I figure out that if I can extrapolate this consumption rate using proportions, I think we are consuming more rice than the Asians and the Chinese, whom we always blame for rice consumption.

The point I am raising here, Mr Speaker, is that my people are dependent on rice so much that when rice runs out they are like dead people. The message getting to us is "we are dying", when really what they are saying is "there is no rice".

Of course, because of this dependency on rice we are becoming less dependent on our own farming. I hope what is going on with rice, notwithstanding the immediate damage it might impose on us, I hope this will redirect us to lessen our dependence on rice.

Mr Speaker, I am going to say something about the inflow of Asians into this country. Mr Speaker, may be we have to do something about this. The inflow of Asians into this country must be stopped, Mr Speaker. We need to bring in people who come in with proper investment. We do not want people who come in just to set up another shop because we have enough shops. We do not need people who come in here to invest in nightclubs. We need people who come in here to invest in manufacturing - proper manufacturing, to create employment instead of coming in here to join the queue and take away some business opportunities of some of our locals.

What I want to stress again, Mr Speaker, is that this is time this country sets its foot and put a stop to the massive inflow of Asians into this country. Mr Speaker, this is not racist. I am not saying this for the sake of discriminating but I am saying this for the sake of this country, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, one evening I was driving down the Western side of Honiara and as I turned on my radio I heard a man talking about Solomon Islands becoming one of the African states. I heard him talking about Solomon Islands heading down the tube. I was listening to this man and I realised that he is the overseas investor of RIPEL. I stopped my car and I rang him up telling him that this country does not need investors like him. He went on the defensive and came up with the statement saying that he was disappointed that a senior Minister was talking like that to an investor and what I did was going to discourage investors.

Mr Speaker, to the contrary what I did was exactly what I have to do, and that is we need to stop that kind of investor. I cannot understand how a person would come in under investment and able to shut down a business that used to be the backbone of this country. Mr Speaker, when I rang him I gave him my identity and I told the staff at the Hotel to give me a call if he wants to talk to me and we did talk. But I made it very clear to him that this country does not need a kind of investor like him. I think he should leave; we should not give him any room to stay.

Mr Speaker, there are rumours circulating in town accusing one senior Minister of this and this has been on the media, and probably you would come across this, Sir, but that rumour came out because this same investor was recording conversations he had with some people. What happened, Sir, is that he has an electronic devise on him and he was secretly taping this conversation.

Mr Speaker, when I was serving overseas I also had one of those, in fact I still have it in my brief case. I can record anybody talking without him knowing. I also have one device with me which I could tell when you come and sit next to me that you also have a device and that device will tell me that you had an electronic device on your body. Mr Speaker, this is what this man was doing.

He had all these tapes with him and you know what? The people who did that are very fit into what is called a mafia investor. If you have somebody who come here saying that he is trying to help why is he recording all these things in secret? Why is he making up stories?

The point I am making, Mr Speaker, is that this country does not need this man. When he leaves, this country will continue.

Mr Speaker, last Friday we talked a lot about the RCDF and raised concerns as to the perception that is persisting amongst our people that the RCDF makes politicians corrupt. I repeat what I said during the debate of that motion that I believe in RCDF and it does us a lot of good and it is up to us to deliver, because those funds are used for assistance to deliver.

Sir, let me say that there is a lot of money wasted on projects. You know that if you see people along the streets, may be 40% or 50% of them are walking around town with projects. I am sure if we are going to conduct an audit of these projects we would realize that a lot of our money is wasted on projects. People getting projects and sell what they gain, and when they get the money they do not use them on projects. You know this, Sir.

Sir, I want to say something about the NGOs that are operating in this country. Some of them are doing a very fine job trying to help this country but some of them are the ones orchestrating the public to believe politicians in this country are corrupt. Today, Mr Speaker, I would detest that statement by saying that no politicians have gone to prison on corruption charges. They have gone to prison on different issues and charges, but none on corruption. But anyway some of these NGOs need to be checked. It is time that this country checked the NGOs because they are getting money under the name of Solomon Islands. The money they are getting is being fed into their systems under the name of Solomon Islands. And if we are going to be consistent we must check this money, Mr Speaker. The NGOs must be checked.

You will also find, Mr Speaker, that some of these NGOs are being used as an affront to getting money. I know particularly of NGOs that are getting millions and millions of dollars, and I heard that half of that money just went to technical people working or establishing that NGO. That is not proven but the people who actually work in that NGO gave me that information. So these NGOs, some of them are good but I insist that we should check some of them.

Mr Speaker, you will remember about two years ago an NGO popped up called the Winds of Change. I did not check the report of the Commission of Inquiry but it would be interesting because I think this Winds of Change helped cause the burning of the China Town. That NGO, if you could remember just went out very silently after the burning of the China Town. Prior to the election, the Winds of Change was everywhere, advocating change, distributing leaflets

and I hope it has been questioned during the Commission of Inquiry. I have a feeling that this Winds of Change must have had a hand in the destruction that comes after our first sitting in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I will not stop until I talk about shipping in this country. You should all be talking about shipping because this is an island economy and shipping is supposed to be an important part of our economy. Mr Speaker, let me just go back to the idea of shipping because I was somewhere close when this concept of giving ships to the provinces came up. The whole idea was to assist in the delivery of services through shipping. What happened after that is that everybody would like to have their own ship.

Mr Speaker, the number one objective of our attempt to deal with shipping is not to provide business opportunities. The number one objective of our shipping endeavour and attempt is to help our people travel. That is the number one agenda. In trying to do that, we have disbursed a lot of money under the name of shipping. Some of this money has been grossly misused and despite the amount of money we have paid out, shipping in this country is still below what we wanted. A lot of this money is wasted. For example, millions and millions of dollars are paid out and ended up paying officials that travel overseas. People who are not supposed to be travelling overseas are travelling. All we need to go and buy a ship overseas is the inspector and the person who is going to make the deal. That is all. There is no need for all the officials to travel.

Mr Speaker, I was at one stage too gone overseas to buy a ship, and there was demand that I must also take some officials even Minister and PS with me. I told them that they are not supposed to travel because they do not need to travel, they do not have any reason to travel.

Mr Speaker, the point I am raising here is that a lot of money is being paid out under shipping programs and the shipping programs are being misused and not used for the purpose they were meant to achieve. Shipping to the outer islands, the uneconomical routes of this country like Temotu, the Malaita Outer islands, Shortlands and Renbel is ironical, Mr Speaker, because these are the very shipping routes that are supposed to have the best shipping services in the country because these routes are subsidized. That subsidy is more than enough to enable proper shipping to these outer islands. But Sir, this is not happening and our outer islands are still crying. I do not know what is missing along the way but let me just say that there is funding to subsidize shipping to the outer islands. But as I said, with that funding assistance, shipping services to the uneconomical routes in this country should be okay.

Mr Speaker, very briefly on reconciliation, and to say that I am grateful we have passed the Bill during this meeting that will assist us on the path to reaching the illusive peace we have been trying to achieve. The rest of the

country are watching anxiously and are hoping this process completes quickly and that we will once again return this country to some normalcy.

Mr Speaker, I will stop here, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this motion. I wish my colleagues as they travel to the constituencies to please go and see your constituencies; do not stay in Honiara too much. Of course, I wish my people down south, which is a little bit rough in that area of the country right now but I wish them well whatever they are doing.

Mr Speaker, as the Minister responsible for tourists, I wish all the tourists in the country and travellers in the country a very good time. Thank you so much for visiting us. I hope you tell your friends and your colleagues some good things about this country and tell them that we are nice people, and thank you so much for coming here. Thank you, Sir, and with those comments I support the motion.

Mr TOSIKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this motion, the motion of *sine die*. First I would like to thank the Prime Minister for introducing this motion highlighting the aspirations and visions of the government to achieve the way forward in the one and half so years. I also would like to thank others who have contributed to this motion, especially the Leader of Opposition for the comments he made, although some comments frustrated others but I think that as government and as Opposition we have to make such comments that will be noted to unify certain activities showing the potentials of the ministry and the backbenchers.

Mr Speaker firstly, I wish to acknowledge the good work done by Parliament staff during the course of this meeting. I also wish to acknowledge your excellent conduct of the sittings of Parliament. Furthermore, I wish to thank all our diplomatic missions to Solomon Islands, our donor partners and RAMSI for caring and their continual commitment to assist our country in various ways, and especially in financial commitment and assistance to our budgetary program. The budget is not only for yourself but this budget belongs to all of us in this country in order that the country moves forward.

Mr Speaker, it is a sad phenomena indeed to note that most of our debates in this honourable House, and I will confine my debate on our attitude and our behaviour of debating in Parliament, is like arguing a simple mathematical sum of one plus one is three without realizing that the simple, honest and true answer is two. We always try to suppress the honest and the true answer and keep on pressing for the wrong answer and insulate the wrong answer as a right and the true one. Or it is like a person hiding behind a veil and arguing bitterly that the public did not see him stealing.

In listening to and reasoning some of our debates, Sir, at times I gather that we are not venturing into new grounds. We are still hovering and covered with the old fashion of seek and hide game, which is game of mystery and failure.

Mr Speaker, unless and until we admit our wrong answer and commit our debate to honest and true answers, we will never advance the integrity of this parliamentary debate, nor will we successfully lead this country to prosperity. It seems to me, Mr Speaker, that we are all liable for the liability this country is facing, simply because we are not honest and an asset to ourself, to this House and our beloved country, Solomon Islands.

Mr Speaker, as the saying goes money is not a true wealth but true wealth is how leaders think and make wise and honest decisions for the prosperity of our country and its people. So many times before that money is the driving force money is only a by-product of our destiny, the destiny the country needs. It is all about effort, we can do things even without money.

It is the attitude and behaviour of people that see part of us., the energy that drives us and innovation that comes into us. It is true, Mr Speaker, that at times Ministers in our offices already defeat ourselves in our own thinking that we cannot move things. I think it is time to reinforce in ourselves the attitude of prosperity, the attitude of looking ahead so that this country can move ahead. If we paralysed ourselves with the thinking of negativeness this country will never move forward. I encourage all Ministers to think positively on their budget and act. I think vision without action is failure. You have to start and make a step forward. If you want to reach a destiny it means you have to make the first step and then the next step will follow. I encourage all of us to work together so that our country will see changes.

Mr Speaker, I feel very humble and small today when a very senior parliamentarian spoke about the motion of no confidence. He said that the motion is a very useless motion. I respect his comments but I think that being a senior parliamentarian and a person knighted with the title 'Sir', he should calculate his comment a bit in this parliament.

Mr Speaker, if we go back to the motion of no confidence that the majority voted against, as I have introduced in my speech, I made it profoundly clear that I do not have any personal hatred towards the Prime Minister and his Ministers. In fact, if one closely reasons the desired outcome of such a motion, one will appreciate and realize that the motion brings about solidarity, creating unity and teamwork, reinforces and strengthens the weaknesses of the government. That is the core part, the end result that I saw by moving this motion. In most cases people think that moving a motion of no confidence is to pull down a government. That is not the intention of this motion.

The motion is like a reflection in a mirror that portrays the image of the government in terms of its performance and the desired results. It is only when one perceives the negative part of the motion that it will not create change to oneself.

I as the mover of the recent motion assured the government bench and the backbenchers that you will run our country for the remaining years to the end of this term.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I wish to thank my constituents of West Honiara for their encouragement and support. I also wish them well in their works of life. Together we will do things for the improvement of our community and this country, Solomon Islands.

To end, Mr Speaker, I want to plant this equation as a seed. If this speech is useless to you I want you to take this equation in mind. The equation I want to plant is efficient as a seed in your minds and let it grow to bear the fruit of prosperity. The equation is like this: Honesty + truth = prosperity means wealth. Proud and liar = doomness means poverty.

Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity, and I resume my seat.

Mr MAELANGA: Mr Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the Speaker of Parliament and also the Deputy Speaker, for their time during this Parliament sitting. I also would like to thank the Clerk and all officers working in Parliament for your time in preparing papers ready in time before we come in every day in Parliament. I also would like to thank the Leader of Opposition and the Deputy Leader of Opposition for asking questions to Ministers to answer because that is how our people will know what is happening within our ministries and the government. It is through questions and answers by the Ministers that our people would better understand things they have not understood before. And so I would like to thank the Leader of Opposition for those questions, and also thank the Ministers for answering the questions.

Mr Speaker, on the motion moved by the Member for Temotu Nende on the RCDF, I am inline with the Member for Temotu Nende because that is the way forward that Members be transparent and accountable for this fund. However, I am not really happy with a comment made by one Member of Parliament when he said that he is not going to help his people with this fund, even in sending dead bodies of his people back home. I for one was elected into this House by my people and therefore whatever situation arises I will always help my people, Mr Speaker. Whatever funds are available to me I will always help my people because it is their trust and confidence that put me in here to represent them in this House. Mr Speaker, I cannot understand why the

honourable Member talked like that. I think that is good for his people but for me I will always be a servant to my people.

Mr Speaker, I would just like to make a brief observation on Ministers who are responsible for development ministries. I would like to say to the Ministers, Mr Speaker, as we now end this Parliament Meeting through this motion of sine die, I want them to make sure work is done so that our people can see things are moving, especially things within our constituencies like projects.

Mr Speaker, another thing that I have also seen here in Parliament House is let us not point fingers at each other and repeating words against each other. This will never move us anywhere. We are here to talk about things that will bring betterment to the people of this nation.

Mr Speaker, if we look at the Bible, it tells us, the word of God says that when we put our hands together and work together we will see things come to fruition and what we talk about will become fruitful. But if we continue to throw words at each other, Mr Speaker, nothing will happen. We have to always look back to the word of God because it will give us the right direction and it is the book that will lead us to prosperity.

Mr Speaker, on the Truth and Reconciliation Bill that has been passed, I want to thank the Minister for Peace and Reconciliation for the Bill. I want to put forward that the Commission that will be set up, as I had said in my debate on the motion, needs to be explained to our people because I heard some people coming up with their views on the media, on One News making comments like "if we go and testify before the commission, are we going to be alright"? That is one comment being raised that we leaders need to go back and explain to our people. Mr Speaker, the Truth and Reconciliation Bill is very important for us leaders to further explain to our people so that people understand and can come forward giving their statements.

Mr Speaker, on peace and rehabilitation, I would also like to thank the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation for taking this issue forward in trying its best to talk about reconciliation and rehabilitation as a step the government is taking forward. I would like to thank the CNURA Government for taking steps to address the rehabilitation program of ex-combatants and other outstanding issues the government is taking steps to deal with. I just want to thank the government for taking steps in addressing these issues because if they are not solved we will still continue to go through hard times and we will face things that will disturb the government. I thank the government for taking steps in resolving these issues.

Once again, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank my good people of East Malaita Constituency. I wish them best in their endeavours in whatever they are doing in our constituency. I wish them a prosperous future. I would like to say

that after this meeting I will go back and see my people in my constituency. Once again, Mr Speaker, I support the motion, and thank you.

Hon. HUNIEHU: Mr Speaker, I would like to briefly contribute to this motion and mainly to make statements on behalf of the Ministry I am responsible for. I think all that needs to be said about the Meeting have been made by previous speakers. As Minister for Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, I would like to talk about how energy and mineralization can contribute towards a sustained economic growth. And if time permits, Mr Speaker, I will also be touching on some of the key issues on my assessment of this particular meeting because I think this is one of the most colourful meetings I have ever attended since I entered Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, since the CNURA Government came into office some nine months ago, a lot has been expected of it, and subsequently a lot has also evolved during this period helping to exert more pressure on this government to ensuring it delivers. The decline in the logging industry, the increasing cost of rice and the soaring fuel prices on the world market are to mention but a few of the most pressing issues that is staring in the face of this nation, and the government needs to assertively address them.

Mr. Speaker, whether through redirection and major reforms or through some divine intervention, the CNURA Government will strive to achieve its goals through its various ministries and agencies, and so my Ministry is no exception.

Mr. Speaker, my Ministry which falls under the economic and productive sector is mostly concerned in developing principally the nation's natural non-living resources in a sustainable manner for the social and economic advancement of the people of Solomon Islands. It is such that with the current status of the country's economy looming in the shadows, I am of the conviction that my Ministry could hold the answer to the country's immediate future, economic prosperity through proper and sustainable exploitation of its mineral resources. My Ministry also holds the key responsibility for facilitating and fostering economic growth through the development of the energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, as I had previously mentioned briefly on the floor of this Parliament, the mining sector presents a very promising potential in terms of foreign earnings, and in my opinion, it could be the future mainstay of the country's economy in anticipation of the demise of the forestry industry.

Mr. Speaker, recent progress in the mining sector has only come about due to the return of law and order in the country over the last few years. This situation had given rise to investor confidence in investing in the mineral sector. Mineral exploration in Solomon Islands dated back to as early as 1930s on

Guadalcanal and in the 1960s on Isabel. With the increasing global demand for minerals and the indication that various forms of natural resources are present in our soils, Solomon Islands obviously has the potential to contribute to the present mining boom, and naturally would attract expressions of interest from outside prospectors.

Currently, the country has a total of 12 mineral exploration companies operating in the country, 10 of which operate onshore and two offshore. To date, the Ministry has issued a total of 16 gold dealers licence and six alluvial miners' permits. There are two more national projects the Ministry is in the process of implementing.

The reopening of the Gold Ridge mine is an issue that is not new and was also in fact a priority policy under the former GCC Government. However, nothing has actually been done to progress this project until the CNURA Government came into office. Since coming into office, my Ministry has vigorously pursued this in partnership with relevant ministries and stakeholders, and I am pleased to report that to date we have made considerable progress towards realizing our goal. The CNURA Government treats this as a crucially important step towards the nation's economic recovery.

I have already outlined in a bit more detail the progress my Ministry has made towards reopening of the Gold Ridge Mine. It is anticipated that the present pace progress is taking, the mine should be reopened in late 2009, and the first gold pour should commence in the first quarter of the year 2010. This is good progress as far as I am concerned.

Some of the issues that remain as obstacles to the reopening of this mine have been vigorously pursued by the taskforce committee appointed by myself to look into these issues as soon as practically possible, and this includes relocation of the village and pursuing the investor to get financial clearance from EFIC, the institution in Australia that will guarantee their investment in Solomon Islands.

In regards to the nickel project in Isabel, Mr. Speaker, the CNURA Government's policy on this project clearly states its desire to invite it through an international tender process for any prospecting or mining company expressing interest to invest in this sector and who may have adequate financial resource capability, technical competence and experience to carry out effective prospecting and mining operation. This is yet again another project that has been tossed around without any significant progress. In fact the last administration lacked clear direction on this important project, thus resulting in confusing the situation giving way to the unconventional issuance of certain prospecting licence as well as a subsequent legal challenge taken up in court of law. My Ministry now has to try and unwind this unwanted situation.

Mr. Speaker, the progress my Ministry has made so far, as I have already informed this honourable House, includes the preparation of tender documents, exploration data from INCO, a company and we are simply waiting on the outcome of the High Court hearing before the Ministry can proceed with the international tender process.

Sir, we believe that these two prime projects, if they can be kick-start during the course of these two years will open up the flood gate for more investment and prospecting in the mineral sector in Solomon Islands.

I also wish to inform this House that other prospecting companies that are involved in conducting prospecting throughout the country have been producing very positive results. I hope, I believe and it is my dream that one day if this country can open up to four or five medium sized mines, Mr. Speaker, will undoubtedly lead this country forward in its economic and social endeavours for the future. I can give hope for the future in our country within the mineral sector.

The Ministry will be working very closely with legal experts to review our current laws to ensure that the desirability of stakeholders, investors and resource owners are equitably taken on board on a win-win situation when the companies come and invest.

What I wish to inform this House and the good people of Solomon Islands, especially resource owners, is ask them for their cooperation with my Ministry and investors who will be conducting prospecting in their various areas.

Mr. Speaker, this year 2008 saw the event of a global crisis in which the global price of fossil fuel soared to unprecedented levels within a matter of months. Whilst there is an outcry from the general public, there is very little we can do about the increasing cost of fossil fuel as it is extremely determined and is beyond our control. It is also very unlikely to return the price levels that were experienced many years ago, although the world market price has since dropped slightly.

As you all know, Mr. Speaker, the price of oil depends on many external factors and external forces that we have no control locally. As price takers we can only pray that the global economic circumstances will see a continuous drop in the price of oil for us.

Solomon Islands depends heavily on imported fossil fuel for its energy consumption needs. This energy use is primarily in power generation and transportation sector, both for industrial and domestic consumption. This has obviously impacted very heavily on the lives of ordinary Solomon Islanders. Transportation costs have gone up including fares and freights. In turn, the prices of goods and services have risen. Urban dwellers in Honiara and Auki

have felt the pinch of high electricity prices due to increase in tariffs. Rural dwellers have to spend more for basic lighting due to increased cost in kerosene, business and commercial trading and industries are feeling the brunt of increase fuel price on their day to day operations. Rural fishermen spent more to take their catch to the market for sell and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, what can the government through the Ministry do to address the worsening situation I have just described? The solution is to develop an alternative renewable energy sources in the country. Solomon Islands is fortunately blessed with resources from which we can harness renewable energy. Potentials have been identified include hydropower. Studies conducted by JICA from 1998 to 2001 shows that the total hydropower potential spread over seven islands amounts to 330 megawatts of which 73 percent of this potential is found on Guadalcanal alone. This is an energy source that we can utilize in order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel.

Sir, I am pleased to announce, as I will later on imply that positive actions have been taken to develop these potential resources in Guadalcanal and Malaita Province to provide energy and also other provinces throughout the country. For example, the Ministry is actively negotiating a loan from Saudi Arabia, a loan or a grant or whatever it may be of USD\$20 million to develop the hydro power potential at Ngalimbiu or the Tina River. So the government is not sitting down doing nothing, but it is doing something positive. This only happens because we have started to link up and to reengage with world institutions like the World Bank. These are some of the positive aspects that are happening, with due respect to the disconnections of dialogues with these institutions.

Solomon Islands is blessed with long hours of sunshine all year round. And there is solar power and we are making strategic move as best as possible to use power from solar. I will be announcing later on schools that will be benefiting from this program pursued by the Ministry.

On coconut oil for bio-fuel, coconut production in Solomon Islands is estimated to be about 13 thousand metric tonnes per annum. This equates to 8 million litres of coconut oil per annum. This is estimated to be between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total fuel used by SIEA annually, which comes to around 30 million litres of imported fuel per annum. What this means, Mr Speaker, is that in pursuing the bio-fuel energy option, we can convert all our coconut produced here into fuel which can be supplied to the SIEA gensets and may be later on to the Renbell boat and others belonging to Members of Parliament. Why use fuel but let us all use bio fuel. We are making active investigation and studies together with the private sector to harness the coconut industry.

Mr Speaker, I believe this will be a successful exercise because it is already happening in countries like the Philippines and Vanuatu where coconut bio fuel is extensively used by their electricity authority and other private companies.

Mr Speaker, on wind energy a little data is currently available, however, the Ministry is working towards gathering such data ensuring this type of energy can reduce our total dependence on fossil fuel.

On geothermal energy, Mr Speaker, preliminary studies were conducted during the 1950s to 1980. The idea was to look at this potential with the view of developing this energy source for economic use on downstream processing of raw materials, tuna processing, timber, oil wood, milling, mining and smelting, etc. Certain potential geothermal areas identified included North West Guadalcanal, Savo, Vella Lavela, Simbo, Tinakula and Choiseul. Work on this was however abandoned but my Ministry is planning to revisit this potential with possible assistance of the Government of Iceland who has fully harnessed this energy source and utilise it for their energy needs. The Cabinet will be requested to give its blessing on this important proposal for my Ministry to pursue. In fact, Mr Speaker, in Vella La Vella alone there is suspected to be about 300 megawatt of geothermal power there. If this is developed we can export power to the Bougainville Copper Mine, and this is additional income. We can make money by exporting our energy to our neighbouring country strengthening the trans-border trade between our two countries. What are Melanesian brothers for, Mr Speaker, but just to harness and enhance more trading activity?

Mr Speaker, the potential for alternative renewable energy has always been present, and with the few village communities that have existing micro hydro power installation, power is basically only available to the urban populace, suddenly our urgency attempts are reactionary to the current global fuel price. However, had previous governments pursued this more seriously, we may not be placed in such a desperate position as now. My Ministry is pursuing micro hydro projects throughout the country where we can do and where we can develop. I am pleased also to say here that, for the first time, there are some donor partners that are interested in developing the Rualae Hydro project in the Central Kwara'ae Constituency. Not because it is from the constituency of the Deputy Prime Minister, but the potential of developing this power, the grid can be extended down as far as Bina where the industries are being planned and as far as Dala opening up new frontiers for more development activities. This is how I believe this CNURA Government must advance its renewable energy. If we construct the Tina Hydro we can provide electricity to all villages in the Plains as well and open new frontiers for more economic development. That is what a service based government is all about. We must talk about something

tangible, something long term for the people of Solomon Islands and not just complain about supplementary appropriation bill in this House. We must discuss issues more objectively and allocate appropriate resources to them.

The Solomon Islands Electricity Authority, Mr Speaker, has recently come under serious attack from many users of that utility. I wish to raise here that the Authority is also struggling for survival. At the moment it is on a hand-to-mouth sort of basis where funds they collect today pay for the fuel. Therefore, if clients of the Authority are not paying up their dues, then how can we expect the Authority to service the country? The time is rough and tough for the Authority and it has been making some tough decisions on its clients. This reflects the Authority's desire to bring the Authority back to normalcy. And I am please to announce that the World Bank will be coming to provide technical advice to that Authority to look at its shortcomings and how to make the Authority more cost effective and more delivery oriented to people using its services. Not only that, Mr Speaker, but when they have completed the Authority we believe the same can be done to the Solomon Islands Water Authority because these are the two important utilities that people in the urban areas need and yet the service delivery is poor and people continue to complain. The costs are too exorbitant and people will continue to complain about it.

Sir, talking about change, this is the change that is actually applied at the moment within the energy and the mining sector in this country. Hopefully, Mr Speaker when these hydro powers are developed, the price of our, as I have always maintained, will be reduced by 50%. Instead of paying US60 cents per unit this time, we will be just paying US15 cents per unit. But if we opt for geothermal power it would be even cheaper at US5 cents because the capital cost involved in extracting this power is not like the other infrastructures.

Sir, I am pleased to also announce, and I would like to take the opportunity to say that with the assistance of the Italian Government to the Solomon Islands Government, we have now started to implement some projects for the following constituencies: Ngela, Ilau – Central Province; Kapiu Community High School – East Guadalcanal; Moana Community High School - Isabel, and the remaining ones will be the Balipa Community High School – Temotu Province; Pirupiru Community High School – Makira Province; Moli Community High School - Choiseul Province; Sogotiwa Community High School – Makira. Where is the West Makira MP he must be happy. Pawa Provincial Secondary School – West Makira Province; Luasalemba – Temotu, Eloteve – Western Province; Ughele Adventist High School – Western Province; Patterson Community High School – Temotu; Gerasi Community Western Province; Su'u National Secondary School – Malaita; Adaua, Aligegeo – Malaita; Biula – Western Province. We have began with the first 17 schools with the \$10million

given by ROC that all Members have signed the forms, it is also under implementation may be for another 50 projects.

I am pleased also to announce now that the Austrian Government is also providing another \$11million to \$12million to continue with this program. There is also the possibility that the Italian Fund will continue with this project in the years ahead of us. Sir, this underpins what my Ministry is doing in developing renewable energy.

Sir, I am also delighted to announce that there are new players coming in wanting to help the Solomon Islands Government. For the first time, may be Turkey is coming into help some of our secondary schools. These are all good news. What is lacking though in the Ministry is the capacity to implement these projects, but I hope we will be submitting our list of requirement for action immediately by the relevant Ministry.

Sir, these all underpins the Ministry's desirability to ensure that energy and mineralization in the future contribute to economic resuscitation to cut the cost of fuel and save and get more revenue from investment through mineralisation in the country. There is no country other way.

Other Ministers have already highlighted their ministries and departments contribution to economic growth, like the Minister for tourism has all the hope for the future that one day this country's economy will be driven by tourism where more tourists will be coming and throwing tourism dollar all around. The Ministry of Agriculture is doing the same as well as Forestry, Fisheries and also my Ministry. What we need to do now is, and I repeat what the Deputy Prime Minister said that not only do we call our people to have a change of attitude but even we Members of Parliament too must change our attitudes, because we are the decision makers who influence people in the village. We influence decisions by issuing licenses left and right to people with no credible investment background thus destroying this nation. And many of that happen here. People fool us around by appearing as if they are billionaires and have the funds and credentials to be effective for development partners, only to find out later that they are the ones who are here as front men to make use of other people's money and destroy the image of this country for the good ones that are yet to come. There are many examples of this Mr Speaker; the Isabel Nickel mine is a classic example.

Hon Sikua: Point of order Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker Sir, I move that Standing Order 10 be suspended in the accordance with Standing Order 81 to permit the continuation of the business of the House till adjourned by the Speaker.

Standing Order 10 stands suspended and parliament continues

Hon Huniehu: Thank you. I was just coming to my points of conclusion, Mr Speaker. I think I have said enough about my Ministry. I would like now to make a brief assessment on this Meeting. I have said earlier on that this is one of the most colourful meetings that I have attended. The first reason is because it is the longest meeting and it makes Members of Parliament to be truly engaged in parliamentary business.

Secondly, I concur with my Minister for Tourism that it is the first meeting I have ever attended as well that more questions were asked on the floor of Parliament than ever before. The difference is that all the questions came from only two persons, who are the Leader of Opposition and his Deputy. So I quite agree that maybe they should be there as long as they want to be. But asking questions, Mr Speaker, allows Ministers to explain their side of the story to the public and I think the public appreciates the interactions during those questions and all of us Ministers, I must also congratulate us for explaining our part of the story and defining what government policies are. I think we did incredibly well.

It is an interesting meeting because we have gone through a lot of big issues like the vote of no confidence. I think a vote of no confidence being moved every six months is kind of primitive, Mr Speaker. This Parliament is not a primitive Parliament. I did not move a vote of no confidence, Mr Speaker. I withdrew it when I was supposed to move it. I withdrew it for your own sake, Mr Speaker.

What I am saying is that as we grow mature, a vote of no confidence in trying to unseat a popular government, to me, has become more primitive than ever before. In other words, whilst you have the constitutional rights to do whatever you can do in this Parliament, you can also weigh that constitutional right against the wishes and the desirability of the people who want to get moving forward and not moving backwards.

Mr Speaker, I have seen this Parliament starting to grow mature as well. The Truth and Reconciliation Bill was a motion I moved in 2002, as a backbencher of the government. It was defeated for some reasons, Mr Speaker. The motion about the RCDF and the administration of it was a motion I moved as well in this House and I explained it absolutely clear why I moved it.

If we are to move forward in our endeavours to be accountable, the exercise of our over oversight rule of parliament and the exercise of our responsibility, as I have said we have to continue to do re-sharpening the tools of democracy because we are in the wheel house, the power house of democracy. We have to continue re-sharpening these tools and while these motions were rejected four or five years ago, now they have been passed. It means we are growing older. It means that our decisions are now becoming more qualitative

than before. Not so much of the motion if it is too quantitative but I am pleased that we have taken action. Now it is up to the Minister to regulate or to leave it as it is.

But I think what it must be understood about that is that the regulatory mechanism is just for purposes of accountability and being transparent. When I moved a similar motion like this one, Mr Speaker, some years ago the intention was not to take away all funds from MPs. That was not the intention.

Proper accountability and system was the intention because the nature of our country where the capital is situated, and some villages 600 miles away, 500 miles away if those guys could not find jobs here to earn a living and get some bucks to go back to the village, they must always end up with only one poor guy, the Member of Parliament. Those are the reasons.

On truth and reconciliation, Mr Speaker, the reason why I was so vocal about it at that time, Mr Speaker, was because I know that the social ethnic tension has opened its eyes to more rioting because of those break through in the armouries. Had those break through in Auki, Yandina and Rove did not happen, the social ethnic tension could not have got off the ground like we have experienced. That is why I wanted more inquisitiveness more inquisitive enquiries about who were the responsible people at that point in time. Because that has enabled everyone to have access to guns and has worsen everything. Where did the guns come from? They did not come from Bougainville, no. It came from the armouries and when all our youths had access to those armouries, Mr Speaker, it spreads like wild fire. I am grateful with the government of Honourable Sikua for recognizing this and eventually an Act of Parliament had been passed to do that.

Mr Speaker, when we debate things like the supplementary appropriation bill, Mr Speaker, I made reference to my good friend the Leader of the Opposition once again. He was debating it as it was another annual budget. It was a supplementary appropriation bill and the purpose of which we know. But what I must warn this parliament is that when you talk on issues you must be like planting the seed for tomorrow. You must plant the seed, whether your arguments are not supported by the government today, at least you plant that seed here, the truth will reveal itself and it will come to pass in the future, like those two motions. But here we are, the Leader of the Opposition criticizing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and the government as not good managers of the economy and our fiscal system. I began to find a lot of weaknesses in his judgment. Weakness number one is that when he was Prime Minister just six months ago, he was the one who introduced the public expansionary policy. He is laughing because the truth is now being told. He was the one who introduced the public expansionary policies. Yes, very clear increase the number of

Ministers from 19 to 26. Now he could have passed a legislation to have 30 ministers. He was the one who was buying vehicles left and right and he was the one who was paying political appointees at exorbitant costs. He was also the one who increases pay rise every month on everyone he thinks should be getting a pay rise. Is this not public expansionary policy?

What we should be debating is how we can reduce the cost of government, Mr Speaker. And this is what this government is doing because we are going to introduce the Integrity Bill in November and when the government stabilizes we can address these fundamental issues. These are the issues affecting our rural people. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition instead of arguing objectively and providing solutions to these issues, continued to ask the question "Are you going to deliver?" Hey, it is not a pregnant woman ready to deliver her baby at the hospital.

I say this because we are growing mature already in this parliament and that is why we must debate maturely and think maturely. This Parliament is full of a lot of mature people.

Mr Speaker, before I conclude I wish to pass my deep sincere condolence to the people of Muki village in my constituency who were attacked by a tornado the past two or three days. More than 30 houses were totally pulled with trees, coconut and sago palms pulled out as well. I know you are living in a little bit of distress and cold at the moment. Very soon we might be doing something to respond to your urgent needs. But I share your moments of bitterness with you, as your Member of Parliament. When I heard about the incident I feel sorry for you. I am not campaigning but it is my duty to express my sorrow to you.

Mr Speaker, with those few remarks I think that we have had a wonderful meeting and I think all of us have been displaying partnership and cooperative peace that a nation needs to take us forward into the next few years, Mr Speaker. I wish to warn us that this is not the time to cause any more political problems to the government, but it is time to work. Politics come and go but this parliament remains and so we have to put our hands and heads together as we endeavour to achieve more for our people, and achieving more for our people will not come if we continue to lock us left and right like the cyclone that has hit other parts of the world. Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

Mr Speaker: Honourable Members, in order for the business of today might be kept alive for tomorrow, I think the Honourable the Prime Minister may wish to move a formal adjournment of the motion before I move the motion of adjournment.

Hon Sikua: Mr Speaker, I move that this debate be now adjourned until the next sitting day.

The House adjourned at 4.45 pm