

## MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011

The Speaker, Sir Allan Kemakeza took the Chair at 10.03 a.m.

Prayers.

### ATTENDANCE

At prayers, all were present with the exception of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs & International Trade; Fisheries & Marine Resources, Commerce, Industry & Employment, Finance & Treasury and the Members for Temotu Pele, Temotu Vattu, Fataleka, Shortlands and Mbaegu/Asifola.

### **SPEAKER'S MESSAGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members, welcome to the second sitting of the Ninth Parliament after a long recess from the last parliament meeting. Before we proceed with the business for today, I wish to make a few comments. I believe all of you have visited your constituencies and people, thanking them with celebration and feasting, reconciled with opponents and non supporters, informing them of your short and long term plans, programs and visions, fulfilled some of your campaign promises, set up your constituency offices and have appointed your CDO's and committees to take care of constituency matters whilst you deal with national issues.

Honourable Ministers of the Crown, I believe you have settled down in your respective offices, familiarized with subject matters within your various portfolios, meet with your Permanent Secretaries and officers as part of your familiarization visit in the ministries, put together 2011 Budget, just to mention a few. Honourable Members of the Opposition, as I have been informed drew up an alternative policy and programs, appointed spokespersons on each of the twenty four (24) Ministries and keep an eye on the Government's daily activities according to the preamble of our constitution. Members of the Independent group, I believe you have settled down with your Honourable Members of Parliament and staff, monitoring of both the Government and Opposition before making neutral decisions for and against matters of national interest.

My office, Honourable Members, has made the following appointments to the Parliamentary Standing Committees from amongst Members of Parliament who are not ministers in accordance with Standing Orders 69, 70 and 71. The Member of Parliament North New Georgia is the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and members are the member for North West Choiseul, the member for Fakaleka, the member for West Honiara, member for

Small Malaita, the member for West Guadalcanal, the member for West Are Area, the member for East Are Are, the member for Aoke/Langa Langa as well as the member for North Vella La Vella. At the same time I have appointed the Member of Parliament for East Choiseul to be the Chairman of the Bills and Legislations Committee and members are the member for North East Guadalcanal, the member for North Vella La Vella, the member for Aoke/Langa Langa, the member for East Are Are, the member for West Kwara'ae, the member for East Makira as well as the member for Small Malaita.

The Member of Parliament for Rennell and Bellona was appointed Chairman of the House Committee and members are the member for North New Georgia, member for Aoke/Langa Langa, member for North East Guadalcanal, the member for West Honiara, the member for East Are Are, the member for East Makira and the member for Malaita Outer Islands.

The Member for North Vella La Vella was appointed Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and members are the member of parliament for Temotu Vattu, the member for West Kwaio, the member for West New Georgia/Vona Vona, the member for Savo/Russells, the member of parliament for South Guadalcanal, the member of parliament for Rennell/Bellon and the member of parliament for Malaita Outer Islands.

The Member of Parliament for North East Guadalcanal was appointed Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee and members are the member of parliament for North Vella La Vella, the member of parliament for West Guadalcanal, the member of parliament for East Choiseul, the member of parliament for Aoke/Langa Langa, the member of parliament for West Kwara'ae, the member of parliament for West Are Are, and the member of parliament for Temotu Vattu.

Honourable Members, I am also pleased to inform this honourable house that as Chairman of the Electoral Commission, my Commission has approved 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 for the bye-elections of the Shortlands and Mbaegu/Asifola constituencies. I thank the government for making \$2million available for these by-elections. Preparations are on schedule and elections will take place within 48 hours from now.

You would recall Honourable Members that last year at the beginning of the Ninth Parliament there were two induction programs organized by the National Parliament office. The first was the program focused on discussions of the various important roles and functions performed by members as national leaders, law makers, representatives of your people and constituencies. The second induction was the interactive and informative dialogue program between Members of Parliament and Stakeholders from government ministries, diplomatic missions, aid donors, regional organizations and accountability institutions operating in Solomon Islands. I believe, these induction programs have brought about an increased awareness of the various roles and duties of parliament members as well as knowledge of key

stakeholders both local and international partners, their missions, operations and involvement in development in Solomon Islands.

A number of members have traveled overseas to attend important international conferences, relevant to the work done in their capacity as chair persons and/or committee members. As you all are aware, National Parliament is part of the network of parliaments working together and connected to other organizations that support democratic institutions in the region and worldwide. For example, the honourable Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee attended the Joint-Parliamentary Conference organized by the European Union-Africa Caribbean Pacific in the Democratic Republic of Congo in December 2010. Two members of the Public Accounts Committee, the honourable Member for Small Malaita and the honourable Member for West Are Are attended the Public Accounts Workshop organized by the CDI, CPA and the World Bank in Melbourne, Australia in February this year. Such attendance ensures we are up to date with standard practices and exercises in parliamentary committees around the world as well as maintained our links and participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Programme.

In terms of developments in the National Parliament Office and the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening project, I am pleased to inform the House that the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project now has a new Project Manager, Mr John Patterson, who is sitting at the Speaker's gallery. Give him a hand, please.

*(applause)*

As you may be aware, in 2009, after the resignation of the second Project Manager, the project has been without a manager since then. This has affected links with the UNDP, which is the main supporter and financier of the National Parliament Office Annual Work Program. Prior to the establishment of the project, Parliament could not fully perform many of these functions due to constraints in terms of human and financial resources.

The Parliamentary Standing project provided much of the needed support and has equipped Parliament to perform its constitutional functions. To date, human resources employed under the project deliver support in terms of management skills, information technology skills, technical advice, legal advice adding more strength and capacity to the Parliament Office, human resources, employed under the Public Service. Furthermore, many of the National Parliament Office work programs are funded and supported by the project. Now, the project has a manager since the beginning of this year, National Parliament Office plans and programs are smoothly coordinated through the cooperation of the Project Manager, the Clerk and the NPO staff. Members can enjoy the services available in the National Parliament.

The NPO has also has twin arrangements with the NSW Parliament. The NPO has benefited from this twinning arrangement in many areas. Today, I acknowledge the presence of Jenelle Moore in the Speaker's gallery. She is the Principal Council officer in the New South Wales Parliament and is here on a two weeks attachment program. Give a hand please.

*(applause)*

During the recess period, honourable Members, a team of National Parliament staff under the supervision of the Clerk had maintained delivery of parliament services and raised public awareness on roles and functions of Parliament, for example, one of the highlights of Parliament activities in December is the Parliament Open Day, which attracted thousands of people from within Honiara and the provinces. The event has been one of the activities which helped to raise the profile of Parliament in its legislative roles and functions, among Solomon Islands citizens. It enabled Parliament to maintain engagement with its citizens. The event was observed by an officer from the Parliament of Vanuatu.

I am pleased to announce to the House that after retirement of the former Sergeant at Arms, we now have a new Sergeant at Arms, Mr Caleb Pituvaka. Give him a hand please.

*(applause)*

We also celebrated the completion of the steel structure of the Office Complex for members of Parliament in early December. The event was attended by many of the stakeholders involved in the planning, designing and construction of the office complex. The office complex is on schedule and it is within the timeline. I am sure all honourable members are looking forward to moving into this new office space when completed in February 2012.

The National Parliament Office also assisted in arrangements of the official funeral of two members of Parliament who passed away late last year. In November 2010, we learnt of the untimely passing away of the late Toswell Kaua while in office as the Member for Baegu Asifola.

In terms of the committees, I am aware that the Public Accounts Committee and the Parliamentary House Committee had proceeded with some of their businesses. The Public Accounts Committee has done an excellent job in conducting inquiry into the 2011 Budget. The Public Accounts Committee's report is being prepared and will be before Members of Parliament in the late afternoon of today. While the House Committee chaired by the Member

of Parliament for Rennell/Bellona was involved in the work of revising the draft Standing Orders. The revised Standing Orders will be tabled before Parliament in due course.

I am confident we will see more committee works in the course of the year, as they commit to their mandate and inquire into issues of national interest, providing a mechanism for scrutiny of executive policies and expenditures.

In conclusion, I would like to first of all remind Honourable Members of Parliament that to be a successful parliamentarian you need to take ownership of the Standing Orders, the Constitution, the Public Finance and Audit Act and the Financial Instructions. These will help you in your work for your plans and visions. If you do not consult or take ownership of these, it will not go in your favour.

Honourable Members, the activities I have mentioned were just some of the happenings, which my office and the NPO team are being involved in during the recess period. Much of the details of these activities will be highlighted in the 2010 Annual Report, which will also be tabled soon. No doubt we are all aware that the focus of this current meeting is on the 2011 Budget, which is a challenging task before us. I have confidence in new honourable Members of this House that all will contribute to steering in a satisfactory way forward for all stakeholders and the nation as a whole. I know all our challenges are many but all of us with a united front can overcome these challenges. Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention.

*(applause)*

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members, as you are aware that before we proceed with the business of today, as I said I will make this statement. As I mentioned earlier on, the Honourable Member for North Malaita due to a case pending before the High Court is therefore excused at the moment because the issue is now before the courts. In my view this has now made the issue of the Member for North Malaita an academic issue. This matter is now before the court. Let us return to business.

#### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS**

- The Special Audit Report – Tsunami and Earthquake Relief Fund
- The Buala Communiqué of the 4<sup>th</sup> Premiers' Conference

#### **STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

#### **OBITUARY SPEECHES**

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members, as you heard at the commencement of this sitting, I formally notify this Honourable House of the passing away of one of its members. I have granted leave to the Honourable Prime Minister to deliver his obituary speech and Members will have the opportunity to pay tribute as well.

Before we proceed with the speeches, it is customary and proper that we all pay tribute to and remember our fallen colleague as a national leader, the late Honorable Toswell Kaua, Member of Parliament for Baegu/ Asifola constituency. May I please ask all Members and members of the public present, and those listening in to rise and observe a moment of silence with me in memory of the late honorable Toswell Kaua.

*(A minute of silence)*

Thank you honorable Members and good people of Solomon Islands for joining me in remembering the late member. I now call upon the honorable Prime Minister to deliver his obituary speech.

**Hon PHILIP:** I rise to move that we pay tribute to and remember our fallen colleague and national leader, the late hon Toswell Kaua.

I was visiting the Democratic Republic of South Korea, and I was actually in the city of Pusan when the message was delivered to me by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the city of Pusan, about the sad and untimely passing away of our colleague and comrade, the honourable late Toswell Kaua, Member of Parliament for Baegu/Asifola.

At the outset, I thank you for the opportunity to make this brief obituary speech in respect of the late Member of Parliament. As you have alluded to, it is customary and proper that we all pay tribute to our fallen colleagues and national leaders.

The late hononourable Kaua was a dedicated national leader. Despite of his medical and health conditions he continued to serve his people and constituency until his death. During his term in office, he served as Deputy Prime Minister, as well as minister for various ministerial portfolios.

The late Kaua began his career in the public service as a teacher at the Saint Nicholas primary school here in Honiara and later became the head master of the school. He was later posted to the Ministry of Education and Training in the early 1980's. The late honorable Toswell Kaua was one of the longest serving public servants; serving various government ministries as permanent secretary. He served the government for about 15 years, including as secretary to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, a position he held leading up to the national elections in 2006. His desire to continue serving the country and the people led him to resign from the public service and contested the general election on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April in 2006, which he

won. He also re-contested in 2010 and also won. Above all he had contributed tremendously to the education sector and the development of public service in this country. As a result of his outstanding services to the government and people of Solomon Islands, the late honourable Kaua was awarded the following awards: Order of the British Empire (OBE), Companion of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG), and the Cross of Solomon Islands (CSI).

As a person, the late Kaua has been acknowledged as being full of vigour and humour. Those of us who knew him know him through his story telling abilities and skills; he always brought laughter to those around him; he was a man full of smiles. He certainly knew the economy of psychology that smile costs nothing, I think something that all of us should learn from.

The late Kaua's exemplary leadership is an inspiration to me, especially. On behalf of the Solomon's Islands Government and my own constituency, I acknowledge with gratitude the services rendered by this great national leader. Members of Parliament had lost a friend, a relative, a colleague and indeed a comrade. His parliamentary engagement though brief was one of inspiration.

Finally, as we pay tribute to this great man, our thoughts are with Alice, his wife, the children, grandchildren and members of the extended family and the people of Mbaegu/Asifola constituency.

To you late hon. Kaua, someone that we all in Parliament continue to recognise as a colleague, we salute you for your sacrifice, service and commitment. With those few remarks, I beg to move.

**Mr. Speaker:** Honourable Members, in line with precedents of the House, I now open the floor for brief remarks from any Members who wishes to join the Honourable Prime Minister in that regard.

**Mr. WALE:** I wish to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for moving this motion. I think it is fitting, it is right that we take a moment to reflect on the life of one of our colleagues, a colleague that lives life to the full. Unfortunately, of course, illness cuts short that very full and fruitful life that made a big contribution to the government and to our country.

The late Honourable Kaua, as quite rightly pointed out by the Prime Minister is someone with a great sense of humour. Those of us who worked with him always break down laughing and sometimes end up lying on the table or the floor; he sort of-spiced up our politics and spiced up our sittings during meetings, and it is a quality shared by others among us in this House. I know that the Minister for Justice is also one who has the same quality of cracking jokes, and so it is right he is the minister of Justice because that is the place where the late Kaua used to serve.

One particular aspect of late Kaua's humorous quality as you know, Mr Speaker, is that he is someone who mimics people's voices. This, in other countries, would be a very highly priced skill. Hollywood is made up of people like that. If he is in other country, he is someone who would have made a lot of money. Because when he mimics someone's voice, and at one time he mimicked your voice, Mr Speaker, and I thought it was really you. He has got this really strong quality that makes us happy and laugh, and for a moment perhaps, for us to have a bit of positive perspective on the challenges we are facing. Sometimes we talk about difficult issues because we deal with national issues most of the time, and we are overcome and perhaps overwhelmed by some of the challenges posed by the problems that we have to deal with at the national level, and so this sense of humour has helped us gain a balance that we live in a human world where relationships are important. And as the Prime Minister has rightly pointed out, the economy of psychology or smile that costs nothing really adds a lot of value to how we transact business, how we deal with questions of leadership at the national level.

The late Toswell Kaua as pointed out also by the Prime Minister was perhaps the longest serving Secretary to Cabinet, which is the highest executive position in the Public Service. He has been served, I think if I am right, at least three prime ministers and he served very, very well, including yourself, I think, Mr Speaker. And it was from that position, that very high position of authority, responsibility and experience that he entered parliament. I think the people of Baegu/Asifola made a good choice in mandating the late Kaua to represent them in that first election that he won.

We remember him for the humility of the man. We remember for his humour. We remember him for the contribution he made in the civil service, in the teaching profession. During his funeral service, I was touched when I think the Archbishop it was, when delivering the homily shared that he was touched by the late Kaua, although in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister, stood at the door as an usher, ushering people to their seats inside the St. Barnabas Cathedral. I think this is a great quality of the man, that sense of humility about him, that rank or status in society or in leadership that we must hold in balance and hold in perspective that we are all equal under God's eyes and in our relationships we treat each other as equals and humble towards each other. This is a great quality we would do well to emulate.

We are happy with this motion and support it so that our late brother is remembered for all that he was and all that he contributed to our nation building.

With those few remarks, I support the motion. Thank you.

**Mr SOGAVARE:** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to join the honourable Prime Minister and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to contribute to this obituary motion moved by the honourable Prime Minister, to pay tribute to remember the late honourable Toswell Kaua OBE/CMG/CSI.



Mr Speaker, (emotional) the late Toswell Kaua is more than just a colleague in Parliament, he is a cousin in-law, and so I guess he is part of our extended family. Many good things about him have been mentioned by the Deputy Leader of Opposition and so I could not agree anymore on what the Deputy Leader of Opposition has expressed in joining the Prime Minister to express the good qualities about this man. Both of them are right that he was the longest serving secretary to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He served me, and he served both of us, Mr Speaker, when you were my deputy and I had the privilege of leading this country in year 2000. At that time he was the SPM and he continued to be the choice of every prime minister to be in that very important and responsible position to look after colleague permanent secretaries, to ensure the government functions and implements its policies. He performed that role very outstandingly as a very senior public servant.

To me, he is more special to both of us. During the ethnic crisis he was the SSPM at that time at one of the most difficult times in the history of this country, and we need people like that to be around to give direction and advice.

He is a very brave man. One morning I was in the office, and apparently he was chairing a meeting in the Cabinet room and all of a sudden I heard a very big commotion in the PM's office and I was wondering what has happened. Police officers were running towards me making sure I do not come out because there was something happening. The boys were just basically banging the door of the Cabinet room holding a huge gun and cocked it like this (mimics the sound of gun cocking) to everyone sitting down at the meeting that day. And understandably, everyone dived down underneath the tables with only their heads popping out. Only the late Kaua remained on his chair with this head still up because he chaired the meeting. He stood up and walked straight to the man holding the gun. That man already cocked the gun ready to be fired. He walked straight to that person; he walked like from here to that door, Mr Speaker, that distance and that man stood at the door with a gun ready to pull the trigger and fire. He walked straight to the man and said 'you shoot me'. He walked and he walked straight towards the man and that man just held the gun like this towards him. That is bravery. He deserves more. I think the OBE, CMG and CSI. In fact, it is not wrong for us to award him something bigger than those after people have passed away. He should be given a much higher award. He is someone who acted very bravely at that time.

Every morning as all SPMs do, and I do not know whether current SPMs are still doing, but he would sit down with me every morning to give me directions or to encourage me. If he has nothing to advise me on then he would just come in to chat with me and say *"Boss, this is just another day, let us continue, everything will be alright"*.

I remember once when I was taken away to the bush for some issues, I called on him. I do not know who else to go to and so I asked him, "please, come and let us discuss this issue". We amicably settled that issue because of his wisdom and experience. He is someone that we will surely miss in parliament and as rightly pointed out by the Deputy Leader of the

Opposition and the Prime Minister he is really a store house of jokes. He makes everyone happy when the mood is low, he cracks jokes and he just makes everyone happy. He would tell stories of how he was used for fundraising; they would use him to crack jokes to raise funds worth thousands of dollars. As rightly pointed out by the Deputy Leader it is a gift that only a very few people have.

I stand here on behalf of the people of East Choiseul to express our big sorrow on the loss of our colleague and to remember his life in the leadership that he provides to the people of Baegu/Asifola.

As I said he is not only a colleague in parliament but he is a very close relative of my wife and so in that regard we are best friends in Parliament. I join the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister to express this brief speech on behalf of my people of East Choiseul.

**Hon. TORA:** I stand to contribute very briefly to this motion moved by the honourable Prime Minister. I would like to thank him for seeing it fitting to move this motion.

The late honourable Toswell Kaua attended the first meeting of the Ninth Parliament, but as we can see now he is no longer here with us at this second meeting. I must thank God for the services the late Toswell Kaua offered to this nation, to his constituency and, of course, to his family.

The late Toswell Kaua, if I can recall, in the late 60s attended Pawa School, one of the Church of Melanesian Schools on the island where I come from. At that time my parents looked after the school clinic, and he used to joke to me about that time. He would say that when they came down to the school clinic they would see me running around the small bushes at the clinic. I knew it already!

He told me that he never left Ugi during his school days. I asked him why and how many years he spent there, and he answered for nine years he never returned to his home. I asked him why, whether it was because of sea transport difficulty or lack of sea fare or the Church did not arrange for transport. But he said that every other student went back home but it was only himself that stayed behind. I asked him to explain further and he said "when I got here to your Island, it was the long crabs that made me not want to go from the island". The small crabs are seasonal and the fish is easy to catch, he said, with no one stopping you from diving the fishes or from going anywhere.

Anyway, the late Toswell was attending Pawa when he met his wife Alice when Alice was studying at the girl's school, a church school at Pamua. Alice is from Guadalcanal and he met her there at Pawa. I started to know him and Aunty Alice very well at that time. I used to address them as uncle and aunty and I know their family very well because of the relationship we developed during those school days on my Island. Then I met him again when he came to

work, and I understand that he was one of the longest serving SPM in Cabinet as the Honourable Prime Minister has said in the public service, and of course he worked under probably four prime ministers as their SPM.

He also has many funny ways like the honourable Deputy Leader of Opposition and Member for Aoke/Langa Langa has said. He has some funny ways. Sometimes when he went into the Cabinet when we members to meet for Cabinet or Caucus meetings, anything that is left over from refreshments; maybe the big tins he would take them, put them in his pocket and then say "uncle, this is for home". No wonder why he started the Tamlan School because he made sacrifices; he sees the education of our children as very important and that is why he built that school.

Today, children from all provinces attend the Tamlan School. He has set a landmark, this great man, a leader and a hero. Only God Himself holds the time and the life of each one of us; God has set the time for him. Every time He calls good people to go first, and I used to question that too. Why do good people have to go first and those of us, the bad ones behind? Yes...

*(laughter)*

**Mr Speaker:** Order, order.

**Hon Tora:** As I said, on behalf of the chiefs and the people whom he knows in the past on the small island where I come from, San George Island, which Alvaro de Mendana called, and now becomes Uginimasi, on behalf of my people and chiefs, I want to express our sympathy for the early passing away of the late Toswell Kaua. On the same note, I extend this sympathy to his immediate family, Aunt Alice and her three children, grandchildren, and the people and chiefs of Mbaegu/Asifola. Thank you.

**Hon FOLOTALU:** Thank you for allowing me to make these obituary sentiments on the late honourable Toswell Kaua. I would like to thank the honourable Prime Minister as well for moving this motion.

On behalf of my family, the people and chiefs of Lau/Mbaelelea constituency, I too wish to express our heartfelt sorrow for the loss of this great leader. Leaders like that who are quality leaders are not so many in this generation, there are not many like that. And so to have lost one like him is truly a loss of a great leader. Honourable Toswell Kaua is a great leader, a man who adds value to his profession and political career. I wish that any new leader emerging from

Mbaegu/Asifola would be like Toswell because many of us good leaders like him are depleting in number as well.

**Members** laughing: (Hear, hear, hear)

**Hon Folotalu:** Like I said it is very hard to find a person of his caliber, a person who is well trusted, and Toswell was a well trusted person. He is part Mbaegu and part salt water, and he is a very great leader that we from Mbaegu inland trusted him very much as well as those in the coastal areas. The good deeds that he has done are still remembered, but we will never be able to see him again, my people of Mbaegu/ Asifola. But one encouraging thought I always leave with people when great leaders like Toswell left us behind are the words of the great patriarch, Job. I always remind my friends that we will see such people on the resurrection day. Patriarch Job says in chapter 19 verses 25, "I know my redeemer lives and He will stand on the end of the later day, even if my skin is destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God. I will see him with my own eyes and not another". Those are encouraging and comforting words that we will see Toswell on the resurrection day. That is the message I want to leave with the family and the people of Baegu/Asifola constituency, especially right now when they are in the process of finding another quality leader to take over his position in the Baegu/Asifola constituency. With those remarks, I sit down and I support the motion.

**Mr TAUSINGA:** In my contribution to the obituary speech in remembrance of the late Honorable Toswell Kaua who has left us some months earlier.

Some days after his departure, I issued a condolence message in the Solomon Star to farewell our colleague for and on our behalf of my family and people. But I think this is an opportunity for me to be verbal rather than writing sentences on paper. I must first of all thank the Almighty for blessing Solomon Islands with such a beautiful son who had left us.

I endorse and share the sentiments made by the Prime Minister, by the member of Aoke/Langalanga, the member for North East Choiseul as well as my colleague who has just sat down. I cannot talk any further because what they have all said is true. But perhaps I just want to make an observation, which perhaps I might elaborate further on is that the late honourable Toswell Kaua shared his happiness on everyone whom he comes into contact with. That is the positive side of his personality for he brought joy and sunshine to everyone who encountered the late Toswell Kaua.

He was an educationist, a public servant, a parliamentarian and a practicing Christian, which made him to serve the country and for which his contribution is immeasurable to children, men, women and the elderly. Only some people are blessed with those kinds of

quality that enhances service with people. I can remember him in one of the incidents in North New Georgia, and that is why I want to speak on behalf of my people.

I took him on a helicopter ride at the death of one of the members of the governing council, the late Samuel Kuku. The government wanted to be represented in that incident, and so he was nominated. We sat together in the helicopter and flew down and all through our travelling, he cheered me up with his kind of stories until the incident he represented was over, and we came and slept at a place where I live. He was not interested in any other things except with plants. He told me he wanted this and that. Because of his personality of always bringing joy, happiness and jokes and all that, I told him 'just take all those plants, they all belong to you!! He was laughing and said "do not tease me". But these are the things that bring happiness to everybody. His personality and his way of talking to people will continue to stay on in everybody's minds. He is a man of contrast because of his service, and for that I think it is right, timely and opportune that we talk to remember him today.

He lives life to the fullest because you can never see in him the negativism of life. That is what I find in him as a colleague in parliament. His work goes with his humility and his humility brings out simplicity that earned him the trust, the respect and the awards the country does bestow on him. He is big, yet he is small, for he transcends all boundaries in human. From the east to the west, from the north to south, those who know him he is somebody big, yet his relationship with the people is small because he is ordinary. His hard work for us is a reminder of the role that we can also play to give hope to the people. He is a shining example of duty, he is a shining example of dedication, he is a shining example of commitment and he is a shining example of happiness.

With those words, on behalf of the people of North New Georgia, I bid him farewell, and may he rest in peace.

**Hon MAELANGA:** First of all, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for moving this motion. I will be very brief in my obituary speech. First of all, on behalf of my people, chiefs, elders, women and children of East Malaita constituency, I also would like to share our sympathy to the family, the wife, the children and people of Baegu/Asifola for their loss of honourable late Toswell Kaua.

I started to know the late honourable Toswell Kaua, when I came in as the Member of Parliament for East Malaita. Both of us belong to the same church, the St. Barnabas Cathedral, and that is how I came to know the late honorable Toswell Kaua. As a member of that church that is where I first met him and started to know who the late Honourable Toswell Kaua was. He was a very respectable person in Church. In church is where we can see the character of the late Honourable Toswell Kaua.

There are only four things I can see in the honourable Toswel Kaua that I would like to share. First, he is a man of integrity, second an honest person, third a person of humility and above all he is a man of love. Those are the four things I have seen in the late honourable Toswell Kaua. I think this country has missed a leader with those qualities in him. I think he is a leader that all of us should learn from, particularly the attitudes he have. I believe if we also have those virtues and qualities, it will also help us to continue support our people and our country.

I think all that have been said by my colleague members about Toswell are very true. The late honourable Toswell Kaua is a hero and a man of principle. I would like to say here that during the passing away of the late Toswell Kaua, the Prime Minister was away on an overseas trip, and I was the one who led the government delegation to share our sympathy message and condolence speech at the Cathedral to the family and people of the late Toswell Kaua.

Once again on behalf of my people and my family, I would like to share our sorrow and may the soul of the late honourable Toswell Kaua rest in peace with the Lord.

**Mr SIKUA:** Thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this obituary moved by the Prime Minister, and I thank the Prime Minister for seeing it fit to give us the opportunity to share in this speech. I speak on behalf of my people of North East Guadalcanal.

This motion is very appropriate because only a couple of weeks ago, the family celebrated 100 days since the late Toswell Kaua left us and so it is very appropriate that Parliament gives us this opportunity because it was not very long ago that the customary 100 days was marked by the family.

The Prime Minister with my other colleagues have covered very well the other areas the late Toswell Kaua has made contributions on, and so the other area that I would like to talk very briefly about is his contribution in the field of education. Firstly, in 1984 I was teaching as well as deputy headmaster at the Pawa Provincial Secondary school on Ugi Island and one mid-morning the late Toswell Kaua appeared at the school, dripping wet, because as you would know, Mr Speaker, that crossing from Kirakira to Ugi is always rough seas from mid-morning until late afternoon. The late Toswell braved the rough seas between Kirakira and Ugi to cross over. I was teaching in the classroom when he came and knocked. When I opened the door and saw him, he asked me to go out. I thought I was in trouble, and so we both went to the staff room and he said to me, "I want you to pack up and within two weeks you are to move across to Waimapuru". I said to him, "why do you not write me a letter informing me that I am moving because it is almost the middle of the year". He said it is very urgent. He was acting under secretary in the Ministry of Education at that time. Waimapuru was just about to be opened as a new school and so he was looking for a deputy principal for Waimapuru, and so he came and looked for me. That was the first professional contact I had with the late Toswell Kaua. Two weeks later I moved across to Waimapuru, but I did not stay there long, maybe only

six months and then he told me to come over to the Ministry of Education. After six months, I came to the Ministry of Education and the late Toswell at that time was acting under secretary as well as the head of what used to be called the Selection and Guidance Unit.

As a leader and a visionary leader in education, the late Toswell Kaua has helped to transform the issue of national examination and standards in the Ministry of Education. At that time the division's job was mainly to place students in schools after national examinations and helps those leaving the school system finds a job. But as our population grows bigger and the nature of education and education for what changes, he is very instrumental in saying that we have to move away from that kind of function of this division and focus on making sure the national examinations are of a high standard, the standards that we set will make the system not to be second rate. That is the vision the late Toswell Kaua left within the Ministry of Education in that our standards and the vision of this person makes the function of this particular ministry. I think the current Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands and Housing knows this very well because he was working under him at that time. But the reason why our education standards are comparable to any country in the region or even the world is because of his vision to move the unit away from just simply placing students in secondary schools or just looking for jobs for people who are coming out of the school system. He believes that that is not the work of the Ministry of Education but it is the responsibility of different people. Education is just to educate people and making sure the standard is of high quality. That is the very big contribution and vision the late Toswell Kaua helped to drive our education system to where it is today.

The other contribution he made is in the expansion of secondary education. You would remember in the 1980s to 1990s we were stuck with only 26 secondary schools, but in his capacity as undersecretary he started looking to donors because our population was increasing and a lot of our students were not going into secondary schools. So he started talking with donors and indeed the World Bank came to help us, not only to expand secondary schools but to expand provisions in primary education as well.

You would remember the primary education project, Mr Speaker, and following that is the first secondary education project we had. Those were initiatives the late Toswell Kaua helped put in place in the expansion of places, both in primary and in secondary education, and we find ourselves at this stage where less and less of our students did not manage to get into secondary schools.

His career as it is in the public service in education is very remarkable as well, and he is an influence to those of us who come after him. We were able to take up when he left education to take up the role he played along with the role of other senior Solomon Islanders who have been in education for that long to bring education to where it is today. That is a little I can contribute to the contributions that the late Kaua made in the field of education in this country.

Some of my other colleagues mentioned that the late Toswell is truly a man who loves to make jokes, and that is true. But I am one of those people who always discouraged him to make jokes because every time he wanted to start making jokes, he would always pick on us, the Guale people first. It is like an old engine that he cranks up, to tease us his in-laws, and then would go everywhere late on. So every time once he started his jokes, I would start to make my way out because I know he would pick on me. But it is all in good spirits. I think the humour he has is very exceptional and only a few people of us have that kind of skill.

Indeed his contributions to the public service; I was a permanent secretary when he was also permanent secretary and his contributions as SPM are admirable. And, of course, we both decided to leave public service at the same time and run for the elections in 2006 and we both came into Parliament around the same time. And I am happy to say that our thinking and our aspirations in politics are almost the same, and I am very happy about that.

The country, in the passing away of the late Toswell has lost a son, the people of Mbaegu/Asifola indeed have lost a son and the family too. So on behalf of my people in North East Guadalcanal, I want to share our thoughts at this time with Aunty Alice and my cousins and the relatives at Adegege, in Honiara and in Suava Bay. With these few words, I support the motion.

**Mr. TOZAKA:** I too would like to join honourable colleagues to contribute to this motion. How pertinent it is for the Prime Minister to move this motion this morning for our late colleague, the late Toswell Kaua. On behalf of my people of North Vella and the chiefs, we too would like to convey our condolences, sympathy and sorrow to Alice and the family for the untimely loss of our colleague.

Every good thing has been said about our colleague, and so I do not want to say any further as everything has been covered very well by our colleagues. But very briefly to say that he as my colleague permanent secretary, once upon a time like the others here who were permanent secretaries, the late Toswell Kaua was a man of lifting. There are two types of people; one is a man who is uplifting and the other is a man who is pulling down. Toswell is in the category of lifting. When I say that by word, it means a lot to all of us. I respect him because that has caused him to pass away in his job as a Member of Parliament. He is a man who never gives up but continues because he is a man of principle, he is a man who wants to serve his people and he is also a man who loves this country, Solomon Islands.

When our country gained independence in 1978, there were only four graduates. Our first graduates were from UPNG and there were a handful of us who were middle managers in the colonial government. I will not use the word 'force', but time was inevitable at that point in time that we, Solomon Islanders have to take over the top posts in the public service, and two of them are Toswell Kaua and myself. We were saying "wait, not yet, we were not yet ready, we would want to have some more qualifications, we also need a little bit of background so that we



can take over". But the leadership at that time said that we must move on, we have to take over the jobs! And so we took over. When we took over we were mindful of the fact that these top posts, these are permanent secretary posts. We were in middle management and middle management are the chief admin officers, and not under secretary; but middle management and chief admin officers. We moved from chief admin officers to permanent secretary and we took over the jobs. The magnitude of this job is just like a tonne of weight falling on you when taking over. We went ahead and took over because we said because of the love for our people and the love for our country we would like to take the challenge.

We worked very hard. We commenced work at 8:00am and followed general orders. We followed financial instructions to make sure we do not miss out on things placed on our shoulders by the colonial government. That is why I said he is a man of lifting, and not a man of pulling down. And so he has been lifting, lifting and lifting until we came to 2006 when we said our service in the public service is long enough, what is your thinking to ensure that we will actually be there in the circle of decision making so that we also participate in there. That was the decision that both I and him made at that time because we thought it is time that we hand over to our young, qualified Solomon Islanders to continue on with the work in the public service. We both contested the elections in 2006, and we both came in as members of parliament, him for Mbaegu/Asifola and I for North Vella.

I am too am very sad because I thought that we would still continue, but again time is not in our hands but is in our Creator and Maker, hence he had to leave us at this time when we still need him to share with us. The two worlds that we both saw, the colonial and at Solomon Islands independence, some of us who are here would be able to connect with history, and that is fundamental to all of us. Some of you are new and we can connect you and when we are connected sometime we were accused as "old colonial men" and so you should not be doing this kind of thing or we are tired of hearing these things, we are moving forward". But it is good to connect, and he is one of the person, both of us used to do that during meetings.

This morning, again, it is very astute of you, Mr Speaker that you are able to put this motion in the notice paper so that we are able to recognize this leader for Mbaegu/Asifola, and not Mbaegu/Asifola alone but Malaita Province as a whole. He is a great leader in Malaita and we respect it.

On behalf of my people of North Vella, I wish to express officially here in parliament, our sympathy at the sad loss of this great leader. I wish to take this opportunity to wish the people of Mbaegu/Asifola in their elections to elect MP Toswell Kaua's replacement accordingly. I thank you.

**Mr. MANENIARU:** Thank you for giving me this opportunity to join other colleagues to share on this very important and timely motion moved by the Prime Minister. I also want to thank

the honourable Prime Minister for seeing it fit to give opportunity to Members of Parliament share their sympathy in the passing away of our great leader, the late honourable Toswell Kaua.

On behalf of my people of West Are Are, the chiefs, church leaders, men, women and children, we too want to share our sympathy for the untimely passing away of this great leader and great son given by God to our nation and whom He has also taken him back to the place He prepared for him. We also register our sadness with Alice and children as they continue to reflect on their father whom God has given to them as a blessing to this nation.

I just want to reflect on the life of this great leader. I came across late Toswell Kaua in 1991 when I joined the public service. He touched my heart when I was a young a public servant at that time. He is someone who gives you something to think about in terms of work and leadership in public service at that time. When I saw him in appearance, he is a dedicated and committed son of this country. He did not waste his time and that is something I always reflect on when I came across this great leader of our country.

In church, as the honourable colleague Member for Aoke/Langalanga touched on, and which I also want to reflect on, he is a real servant used by God. Despite of big titles he had upon becoming a honourable Member of Parliament, in his church he remained an usher, he is someone who leads and looks after people when they go to church. He stood at the door directing big people and small people alike to their seats in church. That is a challenge that really touched me as a young leader when I heard about this at his funeral.

The challenge for us leaders is to be real servants. This touched me because when I looked at us leaders, upon assuming important positions, especially as parliamentarians, in church we no longer help, we think we are big men and so we want to take seats that are reserved for only big men. The work that our God expects us to do, we no longer fulfil. That is what touched me about this great leader that we remember him in this motion moved by the Prime Minister. It is a challenge that we come into leadership that we go down and serve our people and also serve our God who gives us the leadership and qualities, and that is something the late honourable Toswell Kaua left as a legacy in this nation.

I would also like to touch on the short time he served in this honourable House as a parliamentarian. I heard he was sick in 2010 and yet he went and contested the election. In our view, as well as the views of a lot of people that he should just rest because of his illness and so he should just relax as he had already served the country when he worked in the Public Service and also the four years as the Member of Parliament representing his people of Mbaegu/Asifola. But that is not the case, what he said is that his work is not yet complete, he still has a lot of work to do even though he was sick. That really touched me. How many of us in here would be like him committing himself, dedicating himself, even though sick, but we see the work we are doing is given to us by our Heavenly Father and so we must do it to the fullest. This leader, the late honorable Toswell Kaua has shown us that example, he demonstrated this, and he is a real son of this country.

Finally, I would like to touch on this challenge as we reflect on the legacy left behind by the late Toswell Kaua in the work he was doing, how many of us, whilst we are given the same blessings and opportunity, will leave behind a similar legacy for our children and our nation. Let us pray that God will also see us fit for the same blessings He is giving us as we are in the capacity to lead and to serve his people Solomon Islands.

On behalf my people of West Are Are, I would like to register our sympathy to the family, to Alice and children. We will continue to pray for him for a proper and perfect repose to the soul of late Toswell Kaua. I know that he is now sitting down with our Heavenly Father because he has fully served, and he is fitting to be a son of God. We pray that God will continue to bless his constituency as they are facing the choice in a few days time of choosing a new leader to represent them in this Honourable House. We pray that God will also bless them.

And so on behalf of my people, we want to wish Alice and children all of God's blessings as they continue to remember their father that God has given and has taken away from them. With those few remarks, on behalf of my people, I support the motion.

**Mr HOUNIPWELA:** I too would like to join the honourable colleagues who have spoken to the motion. Firstly, to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for seeing it fitting and appropriate for this motion to be tabled at this time.

My honourable colleagues have already spoken about the dedication and contribution that our late colleague, honourable Toswell Kaua has given to this country, to the public service, to his people of Mbaegu/Asifola and to Parliament, and so I am not going to repeat those sentiments again. But just reflecting on some of the things that honourable colleagues have already mentioned, I would just like to make mention of two or three aspects about this man that we are talking about, which also strikes me as an up-coming person in my career. I knew the late Kaua in the mid-1990's as a young person coming up in the Central Bank and he was in the public service. One thing that honourable members have mentioned earlier on is the way the late honourable Kaua was able to use his skills, his education background and his position to further advance and to enhance the good of this country. That is one thing that really strikes me because indeed this man has lived out his life for the people of this country in the public service when he worked as a teacher, and when he worked at the headquarters of the Education Department, and then of course, the many years he served in the Prime Minister's Office and then the last years he spent as a member of this honourable House. That really strikes me, in that he is a person, as honourable colleagues have said earlier on that we should try to emulate; attempt it.

It is a bit scarce attribute when there is a tense situation to be able to diffuse that tense situation, this guy has the ability to do it. When we reach a deadlock he came to open it. This ability is a good one, but more so, as I said, the ability to use your skills, to use your

background, to use your position to enhance the betterment of the people; to enhance the good of this country, to further strengthen the goodness of this country. The late honourable Kaua, our colleague has those attributes. In a way, he is a nationalistic, the late colleague. Such characteristics are attractive to me.

When I look at us, I think about what kind of attributes will people say about us because we will also go away one day. The honourable Member for West Are Are used the word legacy, so what kind of legacy are we leaving behind; each one of us in here to our people in our constituencies, to the women and the children of this country? What kind of legacy? That is the challenge the late honourable Kaua left to us. We must try to write books; all of us in here are writing books. Some of us may have now started the last chapter. Well, you do not know when, so you might as well start your last chapter. But what I would like to say is this: I hope that there will be more of this, more of people that have true skills, true education background, true commitment to this country as the honourable late Kaua possess where you use your position and your skills for the goodness of your people, this country and everybody. Do not use your skills and knowledge for yourself.

Finally, I would like to say on behalf of my people, the chiefs, community leaders, church leaders, people of the constituency called Small Malaita, we would like to join all my colleagues who have already spoken to convey our condolences and sorrow to the people and wantoks of Mbaegu/Asifola, especially in particular to Alice and the children for the loss of this leader. His death is a loss to his family, a loss to Mbaegu/Asifola, a loss to Malaita Province and also a loss to this country. We want to send our heartfelt condolences to them as well. We hope that the outcome of the upcoming bye-election will produce the right person to replace late Toswell Kaua. With those remarks I want to support the motion.

**Hon. SOFU:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for being kind indeed to pick the Minister for Public Service to join other colleague Members of Parliament on this motion moved by the Honourable Prime Minister.

This is real custom. In our rural setting when someone dies, normally those of us who go to pay respect must talk. Some people would stand up and share a few jokes about the person whilst some people would stand up and talk about the good things the person does. In the same manner I wish to thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving this opportunity to us, Members of Parliament to express our words of condolences to this great man. I also wish to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for seeing it fit to move this motion so as to give us opportunity to express what we want to say about this great leader.

We will never again hear the voice of Toswell Kaua because right now he is resting in peace with the Lord. But we have heard all the things the late Kaua has been doing, starting from the Prime Minister when moving the motion and my colleague members of parliament

who have already spoken. As the Member of Parliament for East Kwaio, I would also like to register my voice, because when Toswell Kua served the government, those services also reached East Kwaio, and so I would like to register my voice on behalf of my chiefs, church leaders, the men and women and children of East Kwaio. Thank you indeed, Mr Speaker, for giving us this opportunity.

When I heard my colleague Member of Parliament for Aoke/Langa Langa said that Toswell loves to make jokes, I said to myself that is for you, and that is very true. He is a man who loves to joke but I am scared of the late Toswell Kua. I am afraid of him because when I came in, in 2006 he said to me over coffee in the kitchen there that when he was permanent secretary and he walked into the office, his officers would be afraid of him. But today officers can just say to permanent secretaries, "my brother!" That was what he said. He said when he was permanent secretary nobody would call him their brother because he is the permanent secretary. Can you see? He said when he was joking with other people he did it on purpose so that he gets information from those people as well.

Giving members of parliament this opportunity is for us to do two things: First, so that we acknowledge late Toswell Kua for the good works he has done for the people of this nation. Second, so that we learn too from the many good things he has done. Those of you who have spoken already have served alongside the late Kua for a long time, and so when you mentioned those things we learn a lot. It is not easy but difficult, but we must try our very best to be another Toswell Kua; to be another Toswell Kua to serve this nation, our beloved country Solomon Islands.

As the Minister for Public Service, my research told me that the late Toswell Kua moved four times in 2006 and 2007 to four Ministries; the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry for Justice and Legal Affairs in 2007 and 2010. At the permanent secretary level, he was permanent secretary for seven ministries. He worked in the Prime Minister's Office as the SPM until the very day he resigned and contested the Mbaegu/Asifola constituency and he won because of the trust and confidence that people of Mbaegu/Asifola had on him. He really demonstrated good qualities in Parliament, outside of Parliament and in Cabinet. I want to thank him.

Why did he move four times? Why was he permanent secretary for seven ministries? As the colleague Member for West Are Are mentioned earlier on today, that is a legacy he left behind. Each one of us has to do our own assessment on that whether it is for improvement or for betterment that he moved to those various ministries. When I asked him why he told me he was a man of discipline. When I summarised the words of Toswell Kua, it boils down to discipline, and so indeed in his life.

We both lie down in the Central Hospital two times in 2009. We both could not walk, he was on the bed next to me and he made fun to me. He said, "honourable, I think they reserve this area for Members of Parliament who are sick". We could not walk and only used the wheel

chair. Two of us were admitted together two times and both of us could not walk, and so he said to me, "it seems only the two of us always meet in this place". Anyway, God has given life to Toswell Kaua to live on this earth for 63 years. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1947 and died on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010. God has called him, for whatever reason, as other colleagues have said, only God knows because He created us in his own image and likeness.

As I have said, should I continue to talk I would just repeat the same thing that others, beginning with the Prime Minister and those who have already spoken have said! But I stand here on behalf of my people to also convey our sympathy to Alice, Michael, Lindsay and Nicola who have lost their father, a great leader for his constituency and also for Solomon Islands. Whatever he has left behind for this country is for us leaders of today and tomorrow.

I know there are others like the late Toswell Kaua who have left, and I wish to also remember them because they have done a great work for this nation. I also understood that there are others who have done great things for this nation who are still here, some are still in this parliament we are sitting in right now, the officials are here yet. Toswell Kaua is one of them who has left us.

With these few remarks, may the soul of Toswell Kaua rest eternally with the lord. I resume my seat.

**Hon. MANETOALI:** Thank you for also giving me the opportunity to contribute to this motion. Firstly, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for this motion to which most of us have already contributed on.

I was overseas when I heard the passing away of the late Toswell Kaua, hence I was not able to attend his funeral service. However, in my heart and mind, I joined all of you during the time of his mourning. Previous speakers have already contributed a lot of things during this debate, hence I would be very brief in my contribution.

The late Toswell Kaua is a man who knows a lot of people from little children to elderly people and from province to province, and because of that personality I came to know him very well. I first started to know him when I was in the Attorney General's chambers and I travelled together with him with a delegation to Buala in 2002 for talks between the government then and the Guadalcanal province, and also when we travelled again to Auki as part of the delegation for the peace talks between the government and the Malaita provincial government. These talks were related to the ethnic tension. I knew him very well because of his humour, he is really a joker. During those talks with the two provincial governments, he contributed a lot during those talks.

I even knew him better when I became a member of Parliament in 2006 when both of us came into Parliament the same time. We were also both Ministers of the GCCG and the CNURA governments. Under the CNURA government, he was the Minister for Justice and

Legal Affairs and myself the Minister for Police, and so we both stayed in the same building, the Kalala House until I had to move on to the Ministry of Lands.

The late Toswell was special because he is still a leader of his people, the people of Mbaegu/Asifola when he passed away. His death is like the death of a servant of his people and the people of this nation. As others have said, and I would like to join them as well, he is a great leader of Solomon Islands.

I am going to be very short in my contribution. I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for this motion. I on behalf of my chiefs, leaders and people of Gao/Bugotu constituency wish to share our sadness with his dear wife Alice, children and grandchildren. Also, on behalf of my people of Gao/Bugotu constituency, I wish to share with the people of Mbaegu/Asifola the loss of a great and humble leader. I wish the people of Mbaegu/Asifola successful coming bye-election this week. With that, I support this motion.

**Hon. FUGUI:** Mr Speaker, I stand to pay homage to uncle Toswell. If you excuse me I will make an amiss not to use the word "late" because Toswell is still alive in Parliament today. The voice is silent, the laughter ceased and parliament is poorer because Tos is not here. Tos is diminutive we will use when we refer to him.

Tos is a big man. I will be very brief using the title of Mbaegu/Asifola to explain who Toswell is. Tos is a man from Mbaegu because he was born from a woman named 'Nasau'. We both were born from a woman named Nasau because Nasau was married over to Saua. My grandmother married to Ata'a in Forau and Toswell's grandmother married again to Adagege, and that is how we can see ourselves. It is a direct mirror, not a rare mirror and so it is very direct in terms of intensity and in fact, we have in terms of our relationships.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and yourself, Mr Speaker, for putting it right in front before our budget meeting the obituary of Toswell as very apt and very appropriate for us to pay homage to somebody we were looking forward to work with but time has taken him away. Time is God and that is very important for us to remember. When God says it is time, not a single second is reserved for anyone, except for Himself.

When I came into parliament, I look forward to working with Tos, and as others have said it so nicely, we were looking forward to work with people who have experience and are our elders because that is our custom. We breathe on those who have excelled in the past. That is where our leaders are very important and therefore, as leaders of parliament whether you are an older person or a younger person, to be positioned in an esteemed place like this calls for a very high calling indeed. And today we miss Toswell very much because he is no longer here to tell us what to do, what not to do, how to say it in parliament and also how not to say it in parliament. That kind of experience does come, not through parliament itself, as good as

parliament is, but through the people that walk through the corridors of parliament, and only a few people walk through the corridors, we in here included.

This is a very undemocratic system, as not everybody in Solomon Islands will speak on the floor of parliament. That is how undemocratic the system we have. Because all of us are citizens of Solomon Islands, but only a few of us are privileged to stand here and speak on their behalf. That is the greatness of the calling we have in terms of a Member of Parliament.

When I and Tos had a talk the last parliament meeting, he said this to me, Mr Speaker, and you and the Prime Minister can excuse me for this, "John, why do they not give you a big ministry". I am surprised to hear this from somebody for whom I have great respect. If Toswell is here, he would realize that the Ministry I am looking after, and I also look after the country, is big enough; bigger than what we might be thinking because the realization in terms of the Ministry of Environment on climate change is global surpassing individual understanding. If he were here I would say to him, "Uncle, this ministry makes me to go away from my children every time". This Ministry is talking about so many things, so cross-sectional, so cross cutting that we cannot even understand it in terms of how important and how urgent the issues are. It is there that we need people like Tos to be with us, to give us encouragement to put trust on us by saying, 'it is alright, carry on, we will see its end, although we do not know what its beginning is in the first place'.

On behalf of our people of Mbaegu/Asifola, I would like to thank them for giving Toswell to us. The latter part of Mbaegu/Asifola, Asifola refers normally to 'Lau'. Because we relate to Toswell, the generic terminology or term we usually use is "ma". 'Ma' is poorly translated as 'father' in English. Inside our culture we are so rich that even the English transliteration is inadequate to confer what the real meaning of 'ma' is. This is because if you explain 'ma' in terms of the vertical horizontal explanation that was usually given to foreigners, foreigners' heads will burst. They will not understand why you are born from this man and you are still 'ma' on this number two man and still 'ma' on number three, still 'ma' on number four and still 'ma' on number five. The explanation is how their people understand it, and not by outside people. That is how we are 'ma' to Toswell. And because of Toswell I relate to so many members of parliament in here because Adagege is a very big place.

People from Choiseul will know Adagege, people from Guadalcanal really appreciate Adagege because Adagege made them kuria in terms of the relational linkages they have. So the last part of Asifola is 'ma' in terms of who the Asifola people relate to the people of Lau.

Finally, the Mbaegu and Asifola constituency are in trouble, because in two day's time they will be voting another new member of parliament. They are in trouble because this would not be Toswell Kaua or late Toswell Kaua. He has all the skills, he has all the expertise. The knowledge he got from Oxford University and Cambridge because they go together, and they go together so nicely too is no longer there. They are in trouble because they are looking for another Toswell, and I think they would not find it.



Finally, when we become Members of Parliament, we are not creating legacies, we are creating authors. So that as short as our time is, when we are finished from parliament and people are confident that even though we are not with them in the physical, we will still be with them in spirit, and also in the things we leave so that people would see it and say, "we thank you God because we are in Solomon Islands and not in other places". Because when God put us in Solomon Islands He made sure, and I am emphatic on this because this is important, that everything we have including our people, He put them there. From here, we lost Toswell and so I bid him farewell because he is not here but the spirit lives on, you cannot kill the spirit, it leaves on although the body will cease forthwith.

I want to again thank the Prime Minister and you for seeing it fitting that it is apt for us to put this obituary speech here. And so on behalf of our people in Central Honiara which constitutes of everybody in Solomon Islands, which is one of the dysfunctional constituencies in the whole of Solomon Islands, like a house with two doors where people enter in and exit out anytime of the day, it is so big. We want to pay homage for Toswell because Toswell is bigger than us. People of Mbaegu/Asifola, our people of Ata'a, our people of Guadalcanal, we want thank Tos that he has made our lives far richer, he has enabled us to be more confident and trustworthy than ever and because of him we are who we are today. I thank you.

**Mr Speaker:** If there are no other speakers, that concludes this item of business.

## **BILLS**

### Bills – First Reading

The 2011 Appropriation Bill 2011

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon Philip:** I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

*The House adjourned at 12.15pm*