

## WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013

The Speaker, Sir Allan Kemakeza took the Chair at 10:10am.

Prayers.

### ATTENDANCE

All were present with the exception of the the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs, and the Members for: North West Guadalcanal, Temotu Pele, East Are' Are, South Guadalcanal, South New Georgia-Rendova/Tetepari, Hograno-Kia-Havulei, North Guadalcanal, North New Georgia and North Vella La Vella

### **BILLS**

#### Bills - Committee of Supply

*The 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013*

**Hon DEREK SIKUA** (*Leader of Opposition*): Point of Order. In line with Standing Order 12, I want to raise a question of quorum before we go into this very important process of the Committee of Supply on this very important Bill.

**Mr Speaker:** You are right Leader of the Opposition. We will wait for 15 minutes, and if there is no quorum formed, we will adjourn Parliament.

#### Bills – Committee of Supply

The 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013"

The Budget Support Expenditure

#### Head 372 – Ministry of Education and Human Resources

**Hon Derek Sikua:** I have a question, is the Prime Minister going to respond to our questions or not because the Minister is not here.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Yes, I will respond to your questions.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Page 82, item 2604 - training other, there is about \$1.3million under headquarters. What kind of officers of the ministry will be trained under this allocation?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** I tried to recall the explanation that has been given by the Minister when we went through this in the cabinet but I cannot recall that now. Hence, as you suggested I humbly request that we skip Head 372 and I will immediately ask for the Permanent Secretary and the Minister to come and we will come on them later. It is not difficult to get them both here, they can come.

**Mr Chairman:** You must make sure the Minister responsible and his Permanent Secretary are here. We will move onto 373 - Ministry of Finance.

### **Head 373 – Ministry of Finance and Treasury**

**Hon Derek Sikua:** On page 119, the item 2115 and I think it is on minor office expenses. What minor office expense reaches \$2million? That is a big amount for it to be termed as minor and so can the Minister explain what kind of minor expense is that? Is it for the repair of the office or to maintain the office?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** This head is for continuous IT upgrading that is still in progress and there is going to be purchases for hardware equipment & software packages. This minor expense is to cater for things like paper that supports the work of the IT upgrading program.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** On the same page and the next item 2610 which is below the one we are talking about 'conferences & Seminars'. If you look throughout our budget it is inundated with such expenses and this one has cost \$8million just for computer related things. What things are they going to use that money for in these conferences what kind of expenses are they going to incur to facilitate this 'conferences and seminars' because we are looking at \$8million on that activity?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** As I was saying earlier that this program is continuing. On the IT upgrade it is the whole government but the Treasury leads this work. There are going to be a lot of seminars for all Financial Controllers (FC) of all Ministries throughout the year and they have anticipated the work to continue. Most of these will be local seminars but there will be instances where people will have to do maybe training overseas under these programs. So there is going to be a lot of workshops and training for Financial Controllers and all those who work with the Government which the Treasury is going to lead.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Pardon my ignorance but does this training involve people who are structuring the budget? Because I think for a number of budgets that comes through Parliament we seem to blame computers for their shortfalls. I guess the narrations that we have seen in the budget do not make sense. If these workshops

and seminars have been going on for a number of years now we should really be seeing some serious improvements in the way we present budgets to Parliament, but that seem to reflect the kind of expenditures that we incur in such areas. Does that involve that too?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** I take note of the points raised. In this particular case I can assure the Committee that these are trainings that are necessary. Given the systems that we operate on currently we will need a lot of familiarisation which people must get used to, so that people avoid mistakes when doing coding because there are a lot of back log. So if people do not put proper codes it could take a long period of time when making payments.

So it is absolutely necessary Mr Chairman where all line Ministries especially FCs and people who deal with their own budgets will involve in this. It will not only involve FCs as I have stated in my budget speech we are anticipating more activities in terms of Ministries budget monitoring committees. At the moment those committees are not functioning very well because they too have to be familiar with those systems. So there are going to be a lot of training involving a lot of people.

*Head 373 agreed to*

**Head 372 – Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development - \$15,000,000**

*Pages 81, 82 and 83*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman, I would like to ask a question on page 82 Sir, on this item 2604 Training Other where it's under the Headquarters and Administration Mr Chairman Sir.

I like to ask the Minister to inform the committee that this Training Other is for which group of staff of Headquarters and Administration in Teaching Service or it's a mix in all departments or for the seconded educations in provinces or who will benefited in this funding in sights of training Mr Chairman. Thank you.

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chairman, I am sorry that this book is probably not available during the Public Accounts Committee hearing so that they asked the questions to the officials which they know more details of this particular line item here because it is just available now so I am not able to answer it.

The details other than what is available in there that it is for training, but for others there is what I don't know who will come under others there. Thank you Chairman.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** My question is on page 87 on item 2004 consultancy fees for \$2million more than \$2million Mr Chairman and this consultancy fees will under the Planning Unit. The nature of this consultancy work is what I would like to ask the Minister to inform the committee that it's for what consultancy work to undertake what specific work under the Planning Unit in the Ministry Mr Chairman? Thank you.

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chairman, once again sorry I cannot answer Chairman of the details of this particular of who will receive it but other than to say that is to be used in consultancy work. Who will carry out the consultancy and its nature I am briefed to that information at this point in time. Thank you Chair.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Mr Chairman, on page 87 Training School Board and Administration, there is nil in there but there is nothing in the recurrent budget that has been passed already. So I wonder whether this work is considered to be complete and so it did not attract any funding for either of these documents.

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chair. On the particular programmes are already completed. That is why it is zero here. But those Heads like Training Others, when the need immediately arises, it can still be used under the Administration.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Still on page 87, Item 5100 Capex-Non Residential Building with a total of \$23,413,162. This \$23million, Sir, is to build what type of building, an office block or a number of buildings or classrooms or what is it for?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chair. It is for classrooms throughout the country. They usually come under the Planning Unit, and they look after that budget.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Those are budget support from our donor partners like New Zealand and Australia. And those are taxpayers' money in Australia and New Zealand, and when you meet, we should already know that those funds will support which programmes in the Ministry of Education, Health, Finance and the others. So for the Minister to come in the House and cannot explain those budget support, it does not look good in this Chamber. So I suggest Mr Chair that the Ministers should have their technical people or their PS's to come and explain in this House, what the budget supports are for. Because those funds belongs

to taxpayers in Australia and New Zealand and we are using through our bilateral relationships with them. That is just the comment I want to make.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you. That Non-Residential Buildings with an allocation of \$23,413,162 under the Planning Unit. I just want to ask the Minister on how schools can access those funds?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chair. Those funds are for classrooms and most especially for special classrooms. Special classrooms are classrooms like industrial arts classrooms, science laboratory classrooms, home economics classrooms, agriculture classrooms, those classrooms come under this particular line. And when they request it, it has its process. They have to come through the Ministry of Education. The contact for the schools is the Planning Unit which this allocation comes under. They come and make their requests, and the requests will be assessed, and then funds from this particular line will be released according to the size of the need of that particular request.

*Page 90, 91 & 92*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. My question is on page 91, Item 4033 Community Education Grant which is \$3.5million. I want to ask the Minister to tell the committee. How does this \$3.5million shared amongst the TVET providers in the country?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you chairman, I want to note that the support we usually get TVET under EU has already finished and they decided to stop. As a result we have few problems here and there but this money is not divided like we did for the constituency funding. Rather they are just available there and depending on the need they just come and make requests like the primary and secondary schools that usually come to the planning unit to make their request. But for Rural training Centres it is to the TVET division that they submit their request.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** In light of what the Minister said about the winding up of the EU program, does the ministry have any other plans to continue with this program and perhaps discuss with other donors to look seriously into this TVET sector because now the focus is on tertiary education. Since TVET has been side lined and if we are not careful it will not attract the level of resources that it needs to be strengthened. Can the Minister inform if they have any suggestion about this one.

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** We have some support from Australia and so even when the EU bows out; Australia has seen interest on this area of TVET. Hence, we will be okay for a while we find any new interest donor on this particular area but otherwise Australia had shown sufficient interest for caution of the EU exit.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** It is good to hear that but it is not in here yet so presumably I think that is for the current planning cycle for the following year or what?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** I think it will appear on the next budget but for now the other funds are there to support the TVET and they are not showed in this current budget. So that is why I said that for now we still can support TVET even if EU goes out.

*Head 372 agreed to.*

### **Head 376 – Ministry of Health and Medical Services - \$197,753,293**

**Mr Derek Sikua:** I just want to make a general comment and probably I will try in a question after. But when I see the budget of the Ministry of Health and Medical services which is mainly from Ausaid, personally it is not developmental in nature. It just provide funds for the recurrent costs where the government should bear them and that are why our health system suffers. Also, I do not understand the sector wide approach of the Ministry of Health and Medical services but if you look at the education that we just finished with. That is how aid money should be spent and not spends for the recurrent costs and so I really not understand this budget support that belongs to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. But it seems to be that there is an opportunity loss of that program with the Ausaid, thank you.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** This budget support is actually to support the recurrent budget and so it has to appear like that. But most of this money comes from Ausaid, thank you.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** This is why it is called budget support. If it is a tight program it will be different, I mean if you look at the bundling of the program under the education and you separate them out and bundle them. You will end up with some kind of a support to a lot of recurrent expenditure but the way that it is reflected in the Ministry of Education is more in a summary form. But in the Ministry of Health it is detailed because there is a history of engagement of Ausaid in the health sector before and a lot of that also goes into the recurrent especially the health trust. Now the expansion of the program has sort of widen this funnel to include to the other areas that have not been fully captured but because of the sector wide approach must also cover other components that are so relevant to the various sectors, that is how I look at it in the way Ausaid is running this program. But I think the point that the Leader of Opposition has stated is a very valid one and I think it is

one that perhaps as we still go through this program of improving the modality of the implementation of the budget support coming out from Ausaid. We may have to look more detail into specifics and more into development rather than just recurrent and therefore make us in a way not really taking the right opportunity now to use those resource for something we see tangibly and visibly on the delivery that we have done.

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** Page 177 -overseas lab analysis, there is no actual for 2012, but I wonder if the Minister can give us some indication on the actual per year on this 'overseas lab analysis' on how much it costs us. And to tell us on whether there is any arrears on this one.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** I do not get that question very clear.

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** My question is on the 'overseas lab analysis,' as a substantial reduction on the budget support, we have seen that on the recurrent there is a very small amount but there are no actual figures provided. I want to know on what the actual costs on this 'overseas lab analysis' in any given typical year and I want to know on whether there is arrears on this one.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** I think we do not have any arrears on this.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Just one quick question on page 181; this disaster relieve on item 2251, how does it relates the national reproductive child health?

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** I do not know how this head is posted here, but I guess it is something to do with the new chart of accounts. Thank you

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** On 182, still on Reproductive- this project logistics and delivery 660 and in view of the recent experience that we have at the Headquarter- this is just a comment. It seems that the freight that we charged on freighting Government materials, is three or four times more than the price if we just simply charter the ship. I am wondering what control mechanisms are now in place-internal controls to ensure that this business is stopped and that it is unlikely that it will happen again.

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** I think it is a very important question, and the Minister too realise what had happened this year. I think the public service has amended this financial instruction and they limit this waiver. I hope this will strengthen the management of those in the Ministry.

**Mr. Mathew Wale:** Can the Minister of Finance supplement the Minister of Health on my question, so that it clarifies as to how the Financial instruction has changed and how this area strengthened, so that it will not happen again?

**Hon. Rick Houenipwela:** Sorry Mr. Chairman, I only heard part of the question. Can he repeat the question?

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** I am looking at page 182, project logistics and delivery. So my comment prior to that question was that it came out from that saga. In that when they supply Government material to the provinces, just those freight rates themselves were five to six times more than if a whole boat is chartered to take the stuffs, even a few boxes.

The question following that is, what controls have now been put in place that will ensure this situation does not recur? The Health Minister says it will make changes in the financial instructions - obviously he does not know the details of those changes. If the Minister can inform the Committee what those changes are so that we know those controls are strong.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** There are some issues with freighting services that government asks from the private sector, and one of those is the point raised by the Honourable Member where some providers take advantage of some weaknesses in the system like control and things like that. The immediate action that we have taken is that there is a beefing up on the internal audit, both between the two Ministries, Finance and Health, to ensure that procedures are in place and are complied with. I suppose the point the honourable Minister was referring to in terms of Financial Instructions. There are no changes per se in terms of Financial Instructions, only that compliance is strengthened. That is the change that we have made. We are trying to do that across all line ministries. We know and everybody knows that there are some issues there. This is going to be a government wide beefing up. The Financial Instructions is what we need to comply with, and I supposed in some cases, people might see that it has change. No, the Financial Instructions are the same. Compliance with those is what some people are not doing.

**Mr Johnley Hatimoana:** I am on page 180 under National Non-Communicable Diseases, and that is Item 2604 Training – Other. In the past we have allocated some funds under the actuals or cost budget. Under next year's vote is what I want to ask, under the 2014 Budget Estimates, there is no allocation. Is it accommodated

somewhere or we have already over trained the other people? That is the question I want to ask the Minister.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Yes, we have already conducted those trainings.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** My question is on page 188, that last item on Capital Expenditure, Item 5575 - \$5.5million for specialised equipment. What sort of specialised equipment are we going to buy with that money? Are we going to buy a dialysis machine under the National Medical Store Division?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** I think this head is to meet specialised equipment for X-ray, laboratory especially for reagents and consumables used in those departments.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** During the recurrent the minister said that the anti-retroviral medicine for those who have HIV/Aids is made by global fund. Hence, does that come through budget support like other modalities however I do not see it here? So can the Minister clarify that?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** The anti-retroviral for HIV comes under the global fund but this is just for HSSCP.

**Mr Derek Sikua:** Page 189, the same item which is 5575 is for capital expenditure as well for specialised equipment under the National Referral Hospital. \$6million was allocated for 2014 and so what specialised equipment are we going to buy with this \$6million, thank you.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** This allocation that is under the National Referral hospital is purposely there to look through the specialised equipment for various departments inside the hospital, thank you.

*Page 191, 192 and 193*

**Mr Douglas Ete:** Thank you Chairman, National Referral Hospital is one of the concern for all of us and when they appear before the Public Accounts Committee, knowing that the process of procurement is very long. The committee suggest to the PS and his delegation to hold the capital expenditure of the specialised equipment on one special fund so that even when the procurement process is long we can put it into a special fund for us to procure. Knowing very well that this suggestion was given to the PS I just want to comment like this. Because of the experience over the past 4 or 5 years that we do not order up to date and that is because of the long procurement process. Hence, I suggest that the Minister of Finance take note of this one because it will help all of us, thank you.

**Mr John Maneniaru:** Thank you chairman, on page 189 on the subhead 2730 – patients local fares. I understand that some patients still get their fares but for this year it is zero and so I want the Minister to explain why is that?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you chairman, I think this patient's fare has come under the hospital grant, thank you.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** I just want to follow up on the comment made by the Member for East Honiara. This is because I heard it from the donor itself that the absolute capacity of the Ministry of Health is very low and so the implementation is also low as well, sometimes \$6million is left and it comes on the end of the year. Hence, you have to come up with something smarter to utilise those money. When our hospital is running down due to the procurement process and need equipment urgently, you should have come with something better so that this money is use. This is because even the donor themselves also worry on how slow you are spending their money, thank you.

*Pages 194, 195 & 196*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** The \$62million was for this year 2013 but nothing for 2014 and again on 2014 for National Vector-borne diseases there is nothing as well. So perhaps it indicate that work has started and completed in year 2013 and for capital expenditure non-residential buildings I want to ask which building is it and whether that work has truly complete.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Chairman, what page is the colleague member referring to?

**Mr Matthew Wale:** On page 187.

**Mr Chairman:** You are still on page 187 while we are already on 197, so Minister you answer that question and then we go ahead to page 197.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** We take note of it.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** For this Head, the money is used to be an allocation for the repair of the SIMTRI at kukum. Now this building will be transferred to them and so that is why allocation there is zero.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** When the supplementary budget came, the Minister was sick and the Prime Minister was the acting Minister of Health and Medical Services. When we asked this question he categorically stated that the SIMTRI will not be transferred to SINU and so I do not know what is actually going on here. But obviously, within the government you miss communicated and so we do not know

who to trust about this issue. I want the Prime Minister to tell us if he was true or not about this issue of SIMTRI, whether it will go to the University or it will stay with the government for SIMTRI.

Secondly, if \$62million was not spent last year on the SIMTRI building then obviously that money is still available to be reprogrammed nor has it been forfeited?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** This building is still in the process of negotiation, thank you.

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** I have a question on page 195, with our indulgence if I can go back to that question before we could move to another page?

**Mr Chairman:** Yes

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you very much. My question is on Head 6001, 'legislation review' if the Minister can update the Committee on this from the budgets of 2013 and 2014. What review is this?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair, this legislation review is for quarantine; I think it comes under the environmental division. They are reviewing this legislation in order to update it to international regulations.

**Mr. Douglas Ete:** Thank you Chairman, I understand that the rural water supply is also under this department. In small Malaita there are plenty of water supply, I think almost 12 projects were ongoing there by the Ministry. I would like to ask on the distribution of resources, is it part of the program of the Ministry to do that or not?

**Mr Chairman:** Minister of Health, can you comment on that?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** For this water supply issue, in Malaita this year there were only 13 projects and out of those 13 projects only two are in South Malaita.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** I just want to make a clarification not as Minister of Finance but as Member for small Malaita. I understand that this question will come up later but since it has come up now; just to clarify with your permission sir. I do not really have any idea on this program, I understand that there have been some queries raised previously, even last year people think that this project always goes to South Malaita but thank you for the clarification from the Minister of Health that there were only two projects there.

Somehow people often think that plenty of projects under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation often go to South Malaita. I find that out but there are probably some elements of truth in there, but my point is like this; some people may think that there is some collusion going on because I think a *wantok* heads that division. But when I find out that person was campaigning, so this is not collusion, it is actually a collide. So just to clarify that one, otherwise some people think that there is wantok business going on regarding that project. There is nothing like that, in fact the person heading that area is campaigning.

204, 205, 206

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** I think they must have collided that is why it goes from 12 and only two is delivered? On 198 eye division legislation review- \$100,000.00. What sort of legislation review regarding the eye. I think this is also important, on page 198.

**Chairman:** Honourable Members you have to cope with the Chairman, we are now on 202, 203 and 204.

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** So are you going to rule me out?

**Mr. Chairman:** You have to follow the page, however Minister can you answer the Member for Aoke/Langalanga?

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** The legislation review is to review the eye policy.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Chairman, I am catching up with your pace, so I am on page 206. I want to ask the Minister on Church grants for Choiseul. All the grants for other provinces are increased, then all of sudden you only decrease the allocation for Choiseul province by \$1.4million and they were only allocated \$500,000.00. So what is the reason for that reduction.

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** Thank you for that question, I don't know how to explain the reason for that cut and why it is reduced like that?

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** So what are you going to do about it? Are you going put back that \$1.4million for Choiseul or what is going to happen?

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister take note of that, so that you might vire somewhere to cater for Choiseul Province?

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** I take note of that very important concern?

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** You are not pleased with me dragging behind, but now I am ahead to page 209 is that alright?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes, we are also there?

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** Are you also there? In terms of the casual wage for physiotherapy and rehabilitation, are the physiotherapy division take in casual labourers or what is this for?

**Hon. Charles Sigoto:** I think this one is for a staff working with the community rehabilitation that we absorb now and later on we will put it in the establishment but there is a need for someone to carry out the service.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I want to ask a question on page 207 under Rennell and Bellona Province, Item 5350 Capex – Motor Vehicles. There is zero allocation for 2014, which means they may have already bought this vehicle for Rennell and Bellona Health Division. Have you already bought the vehicle for Rennell and Bellona? Because when I went there in the past week, I did not see any vehicle. Where is this truck? Is it still in Honiara? If it so, you should send it there. I just want to ask about this vehicle. Otherwise you will have to put it again for next year, so that we buy the vehicle for our people in Rennell and Bellona Province, for their Health Division.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair. Yes, this vehicle was already paid and is still in Honiara, and is ready for shipment.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** Thank you. Out from 2009 Parliamentary Select Committee's Report on the improvement of the HIS. I have been seeing capital equipment right across the Ministry of Health. I suspect that this programme, following the report of the West-Mid Children's Hospital in 2009, which appeared in the report of the Special Select Committee recommendations for international codification of disease, number 10 and its implementation throughout the provinces in the country.

Currently if you heard anyone at the National Referral Hospital said that this disease has certain percentage. It is just mere assumption. Without improvement to HIS and ICD 10 implementation throughout our provinces, it will not make any sense. So I just want to ask the Minister, for those Capex and other things, do you also take into account the recommendations of the Select Committee under the 2014 Budget?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair. Yes, this HIS, work has been on-going and has already started at the hospital. So slowly it will roll out to other provinces.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Still on Physiotherapy, page 209, Item 6177 Project Logistics and Delivery, a new item with an allocation of \$600,000. Are you going to set up some Physiotherapy Units in our provincial hospitals? Can the Minister clarify this?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair. Yes, this is a new item which we have put in for this year. It is mostly to shift tanks and sanitation materials for disabled people in the country.

*Pages 2010 & 211*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 2010, Item 2604 Training - other, there is huge increase of \$1,961,1330 from a 2012 actuals of \$222,629. So whether there is a special program on 2014, that is bigger than the past years. So I want the Minister to explain that.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** This Head is for the training of nurses and it will cover; monitoring, competencies and standards of the nurses in the country and that is what that money is for.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** I know that money is for the training of the nurses because it is under the nursing administration but what I want to know is that. Why is it \$1.9million more than this year and \$2million more than last year? Is this a new strategy or a new impetus so can the Ministry justify that big increase?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** For this year we are working on the new regulations of the nurses and this is the money that we will use to train those nurses under the new regulation.

**Mr Derek Sikua:** Page 210, item 2606 – training pre-service. This year you spent more than \$2.6million for pre-service for our nurses and then you do not have an

allocation for next year. You actually took it out more than \$2.6million and so where is the money to train our nurses for this year? If the Minister can inform the committee as to why he takes out this \$2.6millionf or preserve training?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** I think this amount is on 276, thank you.

**Mr John Maneniru:** Page 211 that is on income head of 0522, dealers licence fee. What is that for? Is it not an income from casino? What is there in the national mental health? This is because it was \$80,000 income for 2013 but for 2014 it is zero, so can the Minister clarify that?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** I do not have any knowledge about this, thank you.

**Mr John Maneniru:** Thank you chairman, I will follow through with a comment it seems that the Minister cannot give any explanation on the two Heads to the Committee and other one that East Choiseul asked earlier today and that it seems to appear in the budget of the Ministry, but the Minister himself does not know anything about this.

That is my comment sir, because we will have to approve them but on the case like this, we will approve something where the Minister and the Permanent Secretary does not know anything about it.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** On page 211 which is on National Mental Health, when we looked at the recurrent budget the Minister said that we are short of our qualified psychiatrist Doctors. I see that there is training in-service but I wonder what proactive steps the Ministry takes in terms of pre service scholarships to attract some young people to become psychiatrist. This is because more and more of our people are having mental disorders from Marijuana and all sorts of things happening now. Some Members will also be like that as well because of the RCDF issues and pressure of the Christmas season. So can the Minister clarify that?

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** I want to raise a very important issue that will affect this Head. It looks like we under appropriate this Head this is because we will vote \$197,753,293 but when you look at the page 175, the amount that we should really appropriate is \$198, 153, 293 and so we under appropriate that budget support by \$400,000.00 and so we will have to find \$400,000.00 for Choiseul. So can the Minister explain why we only appropriate \$197,753,293 and not \$198,153,293?

**Mr Chairman:** Minister of Finance, do you know a bit about this discrepancies?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Chairman, I really do not pick the discrepancy at this moment yet.

*(Interjection)*

**Mr Chairman:** On page 175.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Chairman, it is on page 175 if you add the payroll charges it will be \$2, 217, 430 million and other charges it is \$195,535,860.00. If you add them it will be \$198,153,293, that is the amount that we should appropriate, not \$197,753,293 as appeared in the Schedule.

**Mr Chairman:** I will suspend the Committee in order for the Minister of Finance to consult his staff because we cannot vote for the two different figures.

Also the corrigenda have not yet been available to the Members; before we take the final vote.

*Meeting suspended to 2pm*

*Committee Resumes*

**Mr Chairman:** We are supposed to vote for Head 376 but then the Member of Parliament for East Choiseul raises an important difference on the figures. Can the Minister of Finance put the Committee in order?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Mr Chairman, before you suspend the proceedings of the Committee today there was confusion with figures on the budget support for the Ministry of Health which was pointed out by the Member of Parliament for East Choiseul. He pointed out that when you add other charges with the payroll it was not equal to what was on the schedule.

When we went into this break we checked the figures and in fact when add 'other charges' with 'payroll' they are equal exactly as the amount that was on the schedule of the Bill. So it looks like this Brick detail is a bit wrong but the actual amount that we have vote on and what it was made up of is alright. The number on the schedule is \$197,753,293 is equal to when you add \$195,535,863 with payroll or \$2,217,430.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** I thank the Minister for his explanation. I think the question that remains now is the establishment of the level of the budgetary support to the Ministry of Health. If the Minister can inform us on that; Is there any where we can establish the level of budget support to this particular in 2014?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you, I can only ascertain that the level is the one that shows at the schedule and not this \$198, 198, 153, 293 that shows in the brick, thank you.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you, the concern here is that we maybe under appropriate it but as the Minister rightly point out, it does not affect the schedule that we will vote. But if they give under the \$98million for this year then we under appropriate that to the Head 376.

But it seems that both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance cannot tell us the level of budgetary support to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for this particular Head for year 2014.

*Agreed to*

### **Head 378 – National Debt Servicing-\$239,447,871.00**

*Page 233 & 234*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Chairman, for this \$144million that is on lending to Solomon Oceanic Cable Project, can the Minister inform the Committee about the grace period the loan it has to the government and the loan to the company? Also, what is the term of this loan, its interests to the government and whether there is also any grace period given to them in the on lending?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Chairman, this project in terms of its sources, it has four components. I do not remember the Solomon Islands amount but for the US dollars I can them but for the company itself the shareholders of this company has put up \$USD10million (USD). Also, ADB give loan, I think 10.5. A portion of that funding is by grant, also from Asian Development Bank (ADB), 7.5 and the rest is a commercial loan where the company has secured with the ANZ Bank. For the commercial loan terms, I cannot recall the details. The ADB loan is a normal concessionary loan, which ADB always give to member countries. I think a 10year grace period for those long term loans. I will check about the interest rate, I think it is one percent. Those are the components of the funding for this project.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Chairman. This grant component, how is it treated in regards to the company. Is it treated as some interest of the government in the company or is it a total package loan which is on lend to the company by the government?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Mr Chairman. \$11million is on lend to the company by the government. That total amount which is grant in addition to the ADB loan is on lend to this company by agreement.

*Head 378 agreed to.*

**Head 383: Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services - \$3,268,999**

*Pages 291, 292, 293 & 294*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Sir. On page 293, Item 5150 Capex – Residential Buildings, which building or buildings is this for? If the Minister can inform the Committee.

**Hon Chris Laore:** Thank you Chairman. For the residential building are the houses at Naha 4 that are belong to the Correctional Services and they continue to build some more there, thank you.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you, on page 294 that is the Computer software and hardware it almost reaches \$6million and I always wondered when I see the police officers stop the vehicle at the road for check and they work with the Ipad if the driver is wanted by the police. I think the police are developing some good system to catch people and that \$6million seems to involve a lot of hardware and software and so can the Minister update us on that area?

**Hon Chris Laore:** Thank you for the additional question, this \$2.5million is targeted for computer hardware & software for the communication network of RSIPF throughout the country. That involves the direct communication to the provinces and to the headquarters.

*All Agreed to.*

**Head 390 – Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources- \$6,665,000.00**

*Page 387,388 and 389*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** thank you Chairman, can the Minister clarify the substantial allocation that is there for consultancy fees, what areas are they seeking consultant advice on?

**Hon Alfred Giro:** Thank you, this allocation of \$3million is to meet the local and the external fees in terms of local technical assistance, international technical assistance, monitoring & evaluation performance planning, offshore fisheries program

consultancies and institutional strengthening consultancy. For 2014 amongst other, we need to conduct works; one of them is the mobile fish survey project value chain analysis where some of the works have been done for this year. Also, non-endemic importation issues analysis, environmental risk assessment protocol policy and Tuna Fishery consultancies. Those are the things that we want to engage both the local and foreign consultancies to do and in fact this program has its own team leader and he operates under the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources as we already knew, thank you.

**Mr Derek Sikua:** The Item 2103 on page 388 which is the General stores & spare, for the last two years it has really enjoyed quite a high allocations. But in 2014, there is only \$20,000 is allocated for it and so I want the Minister to explain if that is enough for his expense under the General Stores & Spares?

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** For last year we got something we did not really need and so that \$20,000 is sufficient to meet the IT software and new printers for that group within the Ministry.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you, I want to know if any of those consultancy studies will go into the bech-de-mer stocks, so that we know if our harvest is still sustainable or if we had reach the stage that we should lift the ban back again, can the Minister confirm that?

**Mr Chairman:** Which Head are you asking about? Is it general?

**Mr Matthew Wale:** No, it is on the consultancy fees especially where they are going to do different aspects of resources.

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** Yes, currently the SPC is doing studies on bech-de-mer especially on sustainability and the stocks. The MSG countries also like to do the same thing like PNA in terms of bech-de-mer and so this work is currently on process at our country and the region.

**Mr John Maneniaru:** On page 388, for the item 3350 can the Minister explain to the committee what had happened to this activity? In 2012 it was budgeted for but not for 2013 and 2014 but I believe it is a good activity for the communities.

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** I just want to confirm that this activity will be addressed under the sub head 390 000 300 which also deals with the conferences, seminars and workshop.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** On page 388 as well on item 2501, maintenance 'non residential building' which you have put a new allocation of half a million. Which residential building is this allocation for?

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** This allocation is for maintenance and development of provincial fisheries centres in provinces under the Ministry's rural centre project.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** I hope that you are going to buy some paintings to cover the writings on the wall beside the road which they write 'corrupt ministry.'  
But I have a question on item 2601, page 388; conferences, seminars and workshops.' There is also an allocation of \$500,000 there as well; what is this 'workshop, conference and seminar,' for, and how many of this kinds of conferences in 2014?

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** I think this allocation is for 'conference, seminars and workshop' which provincial fisheries will host. It is mainly on aquaculture, off shore fisheries program and institutional development program. We are anticipating three workshops for 2015.

**Mr. John Manenairu:** On page 389 Head 5580. What big equipments do you get with this \$1million?

**Hon Alfred Ghiro:** This allocation is for the transportation of aquaculture equipments including seaweed, farming equipment and also to transport furniture to provinces, and also hiring boats to transport the equipments to provincial fisheries centre.

*Head 390 agreed to*

**Head 392-Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs-\$1, 583,836.00**

*All Agreed to*

**Head 396 – National Judiciary- \$7,932,717.00**

*Pages 471, 472 & 473*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** On page 473, for sub item 1120 can the Minister explain the nature of the consultancy work that will happen at the Central Magistrate?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** There will be three expatriate consultants who will be advisers to the Magistrate Court and one is a High Court judge.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Chairman, the emoluments on that top are supplementation to what is already inside the recurrent budget as incentive based or was taken up directly under the budget support?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** No, it is not local supplementation and these are fully local positions but they are supplemented by budget support.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Just for interest, do those three expatriates pay tax as well or not?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** The Country of derivative is Solomon Islands and so they must pay tax as well.

*Agreed to*

**Total Budget Support**

*Agreed to*

### **Part three of First Schedule – Development estimate**

#### **Head 470: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development - \$30, 043,168.00**

*Pages 5, 6 & 7*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. May be one of the two Ministers to explain how we can dig this budget, where they itemised every individual projects. Can they explain how we can understand this budget?

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chairman. I think how the Ministry of Finance do this; the Minister of Finance will be in a better position to explain how they itemise the heads.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The Minister for Agriculture has passed it to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Planning to explain to us before we can go on.

**Hon Connelly Sandakabatu:** Thank you Chair, and thank you Honourable Member for East Choiseul for asking the question. The Development Budget as it stands is in accordance with the codes of the new Chart of Accounts. In the past it used to be lumped together under one particular code. Now under the new Chart of Accounts, these codes are more less spread out, and it will make easier when it comes to expenditure on each of these line items per particular code, related but more spread out.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Chairman and I also thank the Minister for Development Planning and Aid Coordination for his detailed explanations on the coding of the Chart of Accounts. I want to understand each of the Coconut Industry Programmes on page 5. I just want to understand why there is zero, so I want to start at the top, Item 2004 Rehabilitation of Coconut Industry Program, it has \$1,036,000 in 2013, but there is nothing for 2014. Can the Minister for Agriculture explain which program it relates specifically to? And whether they bid for it, and was reduced by the Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Development Planning or they have not bid for it at all because it is not important for 2014?

Chairman, I do not ask the Minister of Development Planning & Aid Coordination because he only explains how this is presented but now I want to ask the Minister of Agriculture about why such specific programs are not allocated. Hence, I want the Minister of Agriculture to talk about the program or lack the program that they have in their ministry.

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chairman, all these Heads will be explained Head by Head from page nine to page 11, thank you.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you, so does the Minister mean to say that all the things on five, six and seven have been moved to nine, 10 and 11.

**Mr Chairman:** That appears to be.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** If so then it begs the question of why it appears at five, six and seven at the first place?

**Hon David Tome:** As far as the Ministry of Agriculture is concern on the budgetary allocations I am not well versed with the coding system that the Ministry of Finance used. But as far as the budget allocation is concern all the programs spell out clearly Head by Head from page nine upwards. I think that is clear but with regards to the financial part of the coding system I am not quite clear about it.

*Page 12, 13 and 14*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** I am on page nine, we try to put things right and now we start to discuss the allocations of 2014 and those allocation on page nine. Hence, if the Minister cares to tell the Parliament any of the projects which range from \$50,000, \$90,000 and \$80,000 it seems that they have the same narration and so why do they have the same narration and who are the project owners?

**Hon David Tome:** As far as the Ministry concern and as I have mentioned earlier on, the programs which the Ministry anticipated for 2014 and that have been identified

under this Head are clearly spell out in our work program for 2014. However, due to the coding system which the Finance did such information will be provided when we submit our submissions to the Ministry of Finance. I hope all the PS is well versed with it and we will do it according to each ministries work plan.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** So what is the difference between sub items 2004 and 20101 and how are we going to understand it? Because the narration is just the same as National Cocoa Development program and the only difference is the accounting code as 2004, 2101, 2105, 2110, and 2301 which is up to 6504. How will we understand that?

**Hon David Tome:** I think the Chart of Account is done according to accounting codes by the Ministry of Finance and that all the PS including my PS and officials, they are aware of it and our programs will be submitted according to the Chart of Accounts which the Ministry of Finance establish. So that the submission will go along with the Chart of Accounts and that is how I understand it.

**Hon Connelly Sandakabatu:** Thank you Chairman, in addition to what has already been said, before we use to have it under a project and the expenditures are drawn from that project. Here, under this new accounting code we have programs to work with and under each different code, those codes specify expenditure items pertinent to that particular program. For instance, it could be on logistics, the other could be on seeds, the other could on something else but under that one program which for in this case, may be under program 2708 – Agriculture Research & Development on rice. Hence, each Ministry know exactly what each of these particular stands for under this particular programs, thank you.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** That explanation is clear now and so the information that the Parliament needs to know is not yet, especially what the 2004 for? Is it logistic and what is 2101? Hence, that is need to be cleared so that we understand it and by then it will make sense when we put money into them. For instance, when we put \$1million for 2004 then we can question that and if that is just for casual workers then it does not make sense. So we need to know what those sub accounting code stand are for.

**Hon David Tome:** I also share the sentiments that the member has but for all the Permanent Secretaries under each Chart of Accounts, there is a description of each allocation. Unfortunately, those descriptions are not provided here but I know that all the Permanent Secretaries and the Finance Controllers are aware of this. Hence, can the Minister of Finance correct me on this? For the question that you have just raised on page 420, according to our description this is for fix service grants to cocoa farmers. I hope this submission covers those areas.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** It is the first time we have seen the development budget laid out this way and I think we are beginning to understand it following this new chart of accounts. But let me start from what I know first so that my understanding is straight forward.

This year as well as last year and maybe in 2011; this year you give me (North East Guadalcanal Constituency) \$240,000 for cocoa for my farmers at North East Guadalcanal. In this chart of accounts, where are you going to get money to give me and the other 49 constituencies for cocoa? Which Head on your development budget will you get out from it? \$240,000 for each constituency to pay its members or are you saying that, next year we will not be giving you that money, under the Heads we are going to assist farmers directly? Is that what you are saying Minister?

**Hon David Tome:** I think that is exactly what will happen in 2014. It will be from the Ministry and then directly to farmers and not as we have done previously.

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** I thanked the Minister of planning with the Minister of Agriculture for explaining the new account code and chart of account. Chairman, only the Permanent Secretaries, Financial Controller and staff are the people who know what we are approving here. I am in a position that I am denied to information to know what I am approving here on the floor of Parliament and that is my big concern because in here the officials know; we people who are approving this budget do not know what we are approving here.

It is important that when I give approvals my consensus is right and I know on what Head 2004, 2101 including the list that goes down, so that I know what I am approving. At the moment people are saying that, 'just approve it because we already know what it is'; so I am quite guilty and I think that my consensus tells me that I am not allowed to make a decision of approving what I do not know on the floor of Parliament. We should approve something that we as the members of Parliament know at the moment, I am in the position that I approve something that I do not even have a clue of it. That is my concern.

**Mr Chairman:** I think the same question was asked earlier on and that is what the Minister of Planning tries to explain to the Committee but if any Member of Parliament does not get it. Please, you ask the Minister responsible because that is why you are here for to ask the Minister of Planning or Minister of Finance to explain the accounting codes. But I believe the Minister of Planning has tried to explain to the Committee to understand what it is all about. Hence, if you are not

clear on any part then you must ask the Minister and that is the purpose of the Committee.

**Mr John Maneniaru:** Thank you for helping me Chairman to understand it. I understand the explanation that comes from the Minister of Planning in that regard, the Minister of Agriculture will have to be patient with us who do not understand it. So that when we come to each Head, the Minister must explain every single thing because for every Head the narration is just the same but the numbers are different. Hence, that will be my sort of request to the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** I do not have anything that is very specific to add on, except to reiterate and tell us what the Minister of Planning has explained earlier on today and as the Leader of Opposition has mentioned. This will be the first time for us to see the Development budget to be presented in this way, where not all accounting codes come out here. But on the presentation that is here, in terms of the program as the other narrations but every different code come with the program and as the Minister of Agriculture was explaining these different code specify what exactly is under those program that such activities covered? But it looks like a new presentation that we will have to make it more understandable and I note the important point made by the Member of West Are 'Are because it looks like every coding has different narrations. But presentation has been made in terms of the programs so you have a livestock program; you have National Bio security program, National Cocoa program and so. That is how the Planning has laid it out.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** I think we understand all the explanation that was made but what is left now is for the Minister to go through with us on this list, start with 2004 and state what this \$50,000 and then continue on 2101 which has \$90,000 for until we finish the National Cocoa thing and then we move on to the coconut?

**Hon David Tome:** If the Committee allows. But otherwise I will provide the information direct to each Member of Parliament according to the heads and the accounting codes.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Mr Chairman, with due respect, Parliament is being deprived of some very important information that we need to know. We go through pain to go through item by item in the Recurrent Budget. Exactly this is the kind of information that we need. It is just that it is structured differently. But in here what they said tell us what they are in the Recurrent Budget. We have approved Item 2004 for \$50,000. But we did not know what we approved that for. I just want to raise the concern that Members of Parliament are entrusted to pass this Budget to approve, but we do not know what we approve under those various items. So if we want to

continue like this, we will not have any more questions, but just the same types of questions. Unless we just go straight to approve and vote the \$37million because we do not know what the various sub items are for.

**Hon David Tome:** I will stand boldly here to say head by head and the description of each head if the Committee requires. But I am very conscious about timing that is why I am saying that. But otherwise for the confidence of the Committee, I will go from head to head.

**Mr Chairman:** The Committee will ask particular question on any subject matter where the Members of Parliament are not clear about. That is procedure in the past, and you cannot explain all the things. Unless a Member asks for any particular amount of money or head or it will be spent.

*Pages 12, 13 & 14*

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I think the Minister for Development Planning and Aid Coordination and the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development have touched on what has been reflected in the form of this budget. That the way that is presented here. It shows the new Chart of Accounts where it is detailed out.

But the Minister of Finance will bring an estimate, and in the past where the Member for East Choiseul, Member for Marovo and myself brought estimates here, it was just one round figure. We brought that here, and then you ask questions, who will get that and what you will do and it just come from the Ministers that this will like this. Now the Minister of Development Planning and Aid Coordination has decided to print the whole Chart of Account. It is almost like the national account is brought here.

So if you go to everyone it shows that when the budget is going to be delivered it will be delivered according the sub items and so you will just need to ask the sub items and the Minister will explain to you.

*Pages 15, 16 and 17*

**Mr Matthew Wale:** I do not want to go round and round because it is clear now and that right thing now is to ask the Minister. I want to ask the Minister about 2101 on page 9 about National Cocoa Industry Development program which for next year is \$216million and so obviously there is a planning cycle involve with it. This thing make me a bit curious if we go into 15, 16 and upwards because that is an important aspect of this program and so what is it?

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chairman, 2101 which is the National Cocoa Industry Development program, this is for chemicals according to description for that chart of accounts and this will be for purchasing of chemical for farmers.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Now that it is clear, that is good and I am happy for the Minister to inform us about all the items that are here. But I am still on page nine and now that I understand this whole thing I am just ready to ask my questions on this Head, so can I ask a question on page nine?

**Mr Chairman:** No, we are on page 15, 16 and 17.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Okay I respect your ruling, on page 15 then that Head 2404 which is right at the top. What is that Head for which contain \$30,000?

**Hon David Tome:** According to the description for this Chart of Account this is for hire of outboard Motor and canoes.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Thank you, the next one down is the item 2112 which is \$1.6million. Thank you, this is for Livestock development and that is to expand the current program that the Ministry is undertaking at the Guadalcanal Province and Malaita province and it will be expanded and other parts of the country for small holding farmers.

**Mr John Maneniaru:** I want to go back to the National Cocoa at the top that is Head 2503, 2601, 5575, 6177 and 6504. Can the Minister explain what those Heads for, so that it will be clear for me?

**Hon David Tome:** The object of the program that the Ministry is looking forward to undertake next year is on the rehabilitation and re-planting of both cocoa and coconut trees in the country and establish special financial scheme for associations. For Head 2503, this is for maintenance of roads for the experimental station & research station at the Catholic mission up there at Tenaru. This is for the development of that research station for cocoa and the Head 2601 that is for conference & seminars for both for farmers and staff. For 5575, it is for the specialise equipment for genetic research especially when we undertake research in genetics and then 6504 is for on farm research and for research centres at Kolombangara and up here at Tenaru. Lastly for 6177 is for project logistic and delivery, thank you.

**Mr Chairman:** Whilst we are here, page 16 is missing and so can the Minister of Planning comment on that, because it is blank there?.

**Hon Connelly Sadakabatu:** Chair, thank you for alluding to that, yes, mine is also blank as well right from 15 right down to 7. So I will seek consultation with my Permanent Secretary here on why this comes about.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Mr Chairman, while the Minister is seeking consultation with his Permanent Secretary, I would like to ask a question about the national security strengthening program. Which one of these two programs deals with the containment and control of unwanted pests, particularly in mind is the Giant African Snail? Can the Minister identify which of these is to contain the Giant African Snail?

**Hon David Tome:** I think both programs addresses the same thing; body paste and management containment program and border surveillance including other programs which our international courts which trade takes place.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** It is good that the Minister have explained all these. Can he explain the items from 2201 to 6414?

**Mr Chairman:** Hon Minister, you explain all the lines so that we could finish tomorrow morning. I am prepared to go till tomorrow morning; I would rather suggest that you explain everything and put it in the pigeon holes so that Members could understand all these.

Minister, what is your opinion? My ruling is that you explain all the Heads for information for all Members of Parliament and put in the pigeon holes.

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chair, I have a document that is well prepared if the committee requires it.

**Mr Chairman:** You should distribute it. Tell your officers to make 50copies and give to Members of Parliament.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** What we need is something like what the Minister of National Unity has done for us here. He itemise it and then give it to us, in fact the sub items are uniform to others, so if you know what item 2604 is; one Ministry would be almost similar to another Ministry.

What we need to know are the quotes, what are the sub items stands for? Like for the Ministry of National Unity it was listed; 2604 is 'consultancy', 2608 is 'publicity and promotion.' If the reasoning uniform is it uniform throughout or do we need to

establish that? The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation is so kind to give us answers and is quite constructive.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** We will go along with the concerns that have been expressed and I request that the committee be suspended for 10 minutes. The Minister will distribute the very beautifully compiled book so that all of us can read it.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman, if you are going to grant the request by the Honourable Prime Minister; if any other Ministries that are yet to come have similar problems then they should give in their copies too.

**Mr Chairman:** Before I suspend the Committee all Ministers must provide the same format which the Minister for National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace have done. So starting with the Ministry of Agriculture and all Ministries here should do the same for their information of all Members of Parliament. I will then suspend the Committee for half an hour for all the accounting officers to go and prepare and provide the information to all Members of Parliament.

*Parliament resumes.*

**Hon GORDON DARCY LILO** (*Prime Minister*): Sir, I move that Standing Order 10 be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 81, to permit the continuation of the Business of the House until adjourned by the Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 10 (5).

**Hon MATTHEW WALE:** Thank you Mr Speaker. This is an understandable situation, but it happens at the Christmas Eve, and all of us are Christians and family people. The evening is usually traditionally spent with family to celebrate the birth of our Lord. But we will only spend it here. I think you are happy with this, but I am not happy with this. If only we have used Friday last week, we should have completed this budget yesterday or today. But we have given it away, and now we have deprived our families on a very important celebration in the Christian calendar. So I think perhaps the government wants to through the Prime Minister and the Minister consider that we adjourn and we will come back after the Christmas, may be 27<sup>th</sup>, we will then properly complete everything. But it is just what I think because we will not spend the Christmas Eve with families is what makes me sad.

**Hon DEREK SIKUA:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I also shared the sentiments that were expressed by the Deputy Leader of Opposition and the Member of Parliament for Aoke/Langalanga. And it is something that some of us this side of the House have discussed over the lunch before we started. I have discussed this with the Minister of Finance, who owns this Bill, and I encourage the Minister of Finance to discuss with the Honourable Prime Minister. I feel that it is not straight for me to go and talk directly to the Prime Minister on this matter. But I have suggested the idea to the Minister of Finance as the owner and the carrier of the Bill, so that he will go and consult with the Prime Minister. And that is the thinking which the Deputy Leader of Opposition and Member for Aoke/Langalanga has already expressed. If we invoke Standing Order 9(2)(a), then it will be straight forward. Even if we will have to sit on Saturday or Sunday but definitely before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December because we have dealt already with part two and then we have started on part three and then we go again to the Bill and finally to the Sine Die. Certainly we will reach 12.00 O'clock midnight as stated on the Order paper and so personally if it is okay with the government especially the government side then we might move a motion under Standing Order 92 for us to come back on Friday and even continue on to Saturday and Sunday. But if the Prime Minister wants us to finish it this week then we can come back on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December and finish it on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and those are just suggestions. This is because right now we should be with our families, some of us the midnight mass usually starts on 10 pm today and while the others started on 12 midnight. Hence, that is my worry on this area, thank you very much.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you, I want to say here that I fully understand the points raised by both the Leader of Opposition and the Deputy Leader of Opposition to even certain extend even subscribe to the points made. A little problem or should I risk that I am worried about is the guarantee that Parliament would have a quorum when we come back and also given the tight time that we have to the end of the year. That is the only thing that I see as risk situation for us on that case, of course I understand the things that both the colleagues have stated and at the same time I also understand that a good number of our colleagues have already made plans to leave as soon as the budget is done and so that is my worry. Thank you.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** I would like to thank the Leader of Opposition and his deputy for contributing to this motion and along the same line as the Minister of Finance has stated, I think the commitment on this side of House is to conclude the remaining part of the Committee of Supply and we are quite determined to do that and we can do that tonight. I am sure that we can all have the time tomorrow to enjoy the Christmas; the only problem is that if we adjourn today it will cause

inconvenience to those people who have plans for this Christmas season. Moreover we will not be able to make a quorum in between the Christmas and New Year. That is always a difficult part because most of the activities during the festive season falls within that period so the business that the Government has put is that we will have to do the committee and the Third Reading today. And I am sure that we can have time for us to engage in the activities during the Christmas which would fall in tonight.

But I think it is a good time too for us to consider the budget at the eve of Christmas so that as we consider the budget it will be for the people. As John 3:16 has stated, Jesus has died for us and the budget is for the people. With that I beg to move that Standing Order 10 be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 81 so as to permit the continuation of the business of the House until adjourn by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 10 (5).

*Standing Order 10 Suspended*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you, just my final question on page 15 is on the allocation of \$1.5million for the livestock program; if the Minister can explain this allocation.

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chair, this Head 4042 is for Government Livestock grant to farmers who are identified by the Ministry both for small livestock and cattle under our current problem.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman, sub item 5575 Capital Expenditure Special Equipments'. Can the Minister explain this?

**Hon David Tome:** Can the Honourable Member repeat the sub head please?

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** We are on the last page, and on sub item 5575; According to the Chart of Accounts distributed, it is for 'capital expenditure special equipment.' Can the Minister clarify to Parliament on what these equipments are?

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chair, Head 5575 this for a cattle truck for the Ministry, as we try to develop the cattle industry. We are looking at getting a cattle truck and a cattle crusher for 2014.

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** Can you ask the question again Mr Chairman, where does page 16 go to?

**Mr Chairman:** That is why I directed the Minister of Planning to distribute it to all Members of Parliament.

**Hon Connelly Sadakabatu:** Page 16 moves to page 17, it is non-appropriated.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Is this the non-consolidated section, because there is nothing there?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Mr Chairman, if you go through this brick you will find that all specification have been made to lead us to understand the ones that are needed to be appropriated and where are the amounts that are non-appropriated. But they have been put there as part of the bricks for information purposes. So if you follow through, Head 470 from pages 5 to 15; that gives you the total of the appropriated amount both donor funded appropriated and the Solomon Islands Government component. The ones after that are non-appropriated.

So with your ruling as well Mr Chairman, whether or not for us to continue with it or we just leave it as information because otherwise it will take up our time if you pull us into that page and by the end there will be waste of time because we will not vote on that. But it would be good information. The amount to be appropriated has been clearly stated there.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman, page 24 on this advisory and quarantine support. How many advisors are we going to fund under that budgetary support or non-appropriated amount?

**Hon David Tome:** Probably just four or five weeks ago we have taken in one advisor and he will be working along with the Ministry in the quarantine department for 2014.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman, I know it is non-appropriated but how much of this allocation is for salary and how much for other expenditures?

**Hon David Tome:** Thank you Chair, as far as I am concern there was no breakdown given but I know that for quarantine support it will be taken care under this allocation and for salary wise I am not aware whether it is accommodated in this allocation.

*Head 470 agreed to*

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman, sub item 2606 'Training Policies'. How many scholarships are we looking at for 2014?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chairman. The National Training Committee (NTC) has approved 400 scholarship places.

**Mr Matthew Wale:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The transition to University Development, I supposed the modality of this funding, does this goes direct to the University? How is this transition managed? Is it just by directly into university management team and supervised by the university council? Does this also include some of these infrastructures that we have seen or is it a more qualitative support to the transition?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Chair and thank you Member of Parliament for Aoke/Langalanga. The payment process is that, SINU raised the payment through the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD), who then facilitates on its behalf to get the money out from the Ministry of Finance. That is how it is done.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. This Sub Item 5200 Roads and Bridges with an allocation of \$7.3million. What is it for?

**Hon Dick Ha'amori:** Thank you Mr Chairman. That allocation is necessary because the road conditions within the University Campuses at the moment really needs maintenance.

*Head 472 agreed to.*

**Head 473: Ministry of Finance and Treasury - \$30million**

*Page 23, 24, 25 & 26*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you. Item 2004 Consultancy Fees of \$8million. How many Consultants are we still engaging there?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Mr Chairman. That is for consultancy work under ICT programme or IT programme that is currently going on at the Treasury. I

think this morning this I told you that this program is continuing and it is expected that there will be three consultants that are going to work on this program next year, 2014. Thank you.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** On the donor fund program specifically under the Ausaid bilateral there is no money under it but for this year it was \$58.5million. Besides, according to Central Bank there was a huge slice on the foreign aid flow to this country so is that even mean that we not coming the cash grants from the Ausaid. Can the Minister inform the committee about it?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Mr Chairman, that understanding is correct but the money to work on it is still there but no more funds to fund the programs of the Ministries.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agoavaka:** On household income and expenditure survey. I noted that on the development budget it is zero and so my first question is, are the ministries planning to do another household income and expenditure survey or not and if it is not then it zero reflects that. Or maybe that item has moved because of the chart of accounts has moved elsewhere and I say so because if we are to have an inclusive growth of our country about economy then one thing that I wanted to be included is funding the unemployment rate of our country. That is, to find out how many people are really formally employed so that out of this data we can extract our employment rate or unemployment rate? So can the Minister tell us if we are not going to hold it and if they hold it can they include the possibility of extracting information, data and statistics that include unemployment rate or employment rate?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank for Member for Central Guadalcanal for that very important point raised. That is one important piece of data that we hope we will get out from the survey and by the way this survey is completed in the sense that information were already gathered but it is the report that is yet to be produced. So there is no activity in terms of the survey for next year because they will just write the report and hopefully that piece of information will be produced when it is ready but I fully understand what the Honourable member has raised.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** ADB grants for this year has accounted for \$30.8million and the NZ aid bilateral is accounted for \$15million while Ausaid RAMSI accounted for \$27million. There was a little bit of decrease on the non-appropriated funds. Why is that?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Basically, some of the bilateral programs have continued to decrease and in terms of the financial allocations that we have expected. So that is essentially the reason for that decrease.

**Hon Douglas Ete:** Some of the programs are for economic governance and financial management. I would like the Minister to assure the House on what the impacts of the programs on our financial system? Is it functioning or what?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** A very good question and I am happy for the question raised by the Honourable Member for East Honiara. The programs of the Ministry of Finance for the past few years till next year are composed of four main components. The First component is this enhance technology infrastructure like the IT programs, Asaquda programs at the Customs, Orion and so forth.

But with regard to enhance infrastructure an interesting one that we have been looking at is this transport management system. We were supposed to embark on it this year; there is already work going on including this one for the registration of vehicle number plates because it is going to be changed. This will not only help us at the Inland Revenue with regards to revenue but also for Police to check on whether licenses are correct, and as well as for the Ministry of Infrastructure.

The other component that we are working on at the Treasury is with IT where Orion as I have mention and the Chart of Accounts is still in process. Then the second component is on the feasible infrastructure which we are currently working on two buildings; for the Treasury building and some working is in progress at the Customs.

The third component is the economic and social data improvement. This including household surveys as well as this statistic report that has just come up, and then the last one is the economic and revenue financing; the latest one is with regard to the legislation to improve it, upgrade it, renew it and amend legislations. So that is what we are working on this Public Financial Management (PFM), Central Bank Act, and then the NPF Act and Credit Union Act which are yet to be amended.

The big work for us to do is to put together booklets and how to follow this PFM Act. I think going back to the question Sir, a lot of work has already been done and some are yet to be done, but still progressing.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** On page 36, non-appropriated of those allocations; 0630 'New Zealand bilateral support to IRD.' My question is, what is the plan of the Government to localise the post of the Commission of Inland Revenue?

**Mr. Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you, this is a very important part of this program. There is an on-going training that is in progress, and there are a number of people identified and at this point of time we are still looking at individuals that have been identified and who are still working in the Ministry. At this point of time I cannot say on whether we have got a candidate already or not. I think the current TA is almost done with its contract, so I will be awaiting the report at the end of the contract or towards the end of the contract.

*Head 473 agreed to*

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman, that sub item 2004; if that Chart of Accounts is; it is consultancy fees. Can the Minister confirm what this is for? What is the nature of that consultancy work?

**Mr. Clay Forau Soalaoi:** Thank you Mr Chairman, this sub item 2004; previously that one is not for VIP lounges, so the VIP lounge project is now up to the stage where we received a design of the new VIP lounge last week. So the \$2million that is left is for tender and the award of the tender to the contractor.

The project team comprises of officers from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Foreign Affairs and also Civil Aviation who are going to work on that phase due to the new chart of accounts. But that is really what the purpose of the money for; of course the people involved can also be referred to as consultants.

**Mr. Matthew Wale:** Chairman, from what the Minister has stated and looking at forward projections for 2015 and 2016; there is only \$2million for 2015 so I suppose the natural question is, when do you expect the work to actually start and how much would it cost over the 3years period to do the job?

**Hon Clay Forau Soalaoi:** Projection for next year to 2016 is that the Ministry would want to invest in something where we can be proud of. So it would take about three years; so depending on when the work actually started after the award of the contracts the Ministry will be seeking resources that is needed for the actual work to continue and to be finished.

So we put in figures there, for 2016 you will see there is \$5million there so we are projecting that we are going to need that level of resource and that if work begins we will be seeking resources to ensure that work has started and is done in time because

the projection has been there for a while. And while this is in process we also got the design for the existing VIP to be upgraded into something more acceptable to our visitors and something we can also be proud of.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** The work at the Suva chancery; we have allocated about half a million there. Can the Minister inform us on what stage we are on the chancery program in Suva?

**Hon Clay Forau Soalaoi:** For the Suva chancery you will note that the same level of resources was allocated this year but was never utilised because the land has not yet been transferred the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) although it has been allocated. But up until today the land has never been transferred to SIG so that is what we have been waiting for. We got information from Suva that the host Government is working on demarcating that land between three Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) countries; Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. It is also bring in service lines to the plot of land so once that is done; we are anticipating that it is going to be done early next year so we are putting in that \$500,000 for the design phase of the Suva Chancery.

*Head 474 agreed to.*

**Head 475: Office of the Governor General - \$1million**

*Pages 43 & 44*

*Head 475 agreed to.*

**Head 476: Ministry of Health and Medical Services - \$27million.**

*Pages 47, 48, 49 & 50*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Can the Minister just explain the nature of the consultancy work on page 48, there is two there. One is under Public Health Programme Development Plan – 2014 and another one is Primary Health Care, and who are those involved?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair. This is for consultancy work before technical officers will work within the Public Health to advise us on how to implement and carry out the programmes.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** Thank you Chairman. Just a question that we have raised during the PAC hearing quite a number of times. The Tatamba and Lambi Clinics, there are no funds there. In fact, what had happened was that, the money that was allocated to Lambi Clinic in 2013 fiscal year was taken out for SINU. So it raises a little bit of concern by the Public Accounts Committee. The Tatamba Clinic, there is also zero. I just want the Minister to inform the House whether or not work has been done, or has it been completed already or you are not going to do anything about these clinics.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Thank you Chair. I want to thank the colleague Member for East Honiara for the question. For next year, 2014, all the health facilities will come under the Primary Health Care Programme. This is where the clinics will be addressed.

*Pages 51, 52 & 53*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Just a question on Item 0666 UNICEF on page 53 of \$10million. Can the Minister explain what this money is for?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** This program comes in to support the water and sanitation of schools.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** The sub head under the 476 item – 5100 they seems to cross cut the medical supplies and logistic development and there are quite a number of them. That is on page 49 and 50 and so I want the Minister to clarify that?

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** Those cross cutting logistics and supplies are to build medical stores at the area health centres and it is also for the staff houses and to support their work when they stay at the rural areas, thank you.

**Mr Douglas Ete:** Just only thing, what about the Japanese funding, World Bank for support for health and technical assistance, are they still going on or not, especially the one that one that appears on this year's fiscal budget and this because it does not appear on 2014 budget. So I want the Minister to say something about it.

**Hon Charles Sigoto:** For the Japanese project as it appears here, that is the only thing that they can assist us.

*Head 476 agreed to.*

### **Head 477 – Ministry of Infrastructure and Development**

*Page 57, 58, 59*

**Hon Dr Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman, so we are on the same page. I would like to ask the Minister on item 2004 on page 58 on 'Navigate aids.' Minister, the navigational Aids is for which part of the country?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** Sorry, you are asking a question on item 2004?

**Mr Chairman:** Can you repeat your question Honourable Leader?

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Yes, on page 58 on 'item 2004 Navigational Aid 2014.' That allocation of more than \$4.9million; I am asking the Minister if he can inform us on which part of the country he is going to assist on the navigation aids.

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** For the navigation aids around the country we will have to carry out an assessment because if you remember when we were talking about the recurrent budget we were mentioning that some of them were damaged and we do not know exactly what is there so we have made provisions to look at the navigational aids throughout the country and try to locate on where we need some new ones for amending and repairing. So that is the usage of the amount that you have questioned.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** I am very happy to hear the Minister mentioning repairs for those that are damaged. The *Koli* point post light and *Tiviale* are malfunctioning for sometime because people have removed their batteries and other things that are there. Is there anywhere for us to build the lights so that it would be difficult for people to remove because even if you put them back it will be removed?

I do not what happen to people who did those actions but it endangers lives of our people who travel by boats. But there must be some way of making sure that those light would be difficult to be removed or damaged; even that one on the island of *Ngughu* has been removed, so three lights outside from my village has been malfunction for a long time. Can the Minister inform us on any ideas how these lights could not be removed or stolen?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** I will take note of it Mr Chairman.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Sir, I am on page 58. On the shipping grants initiatives for this year, there is one amount of \$14million and there is another amount of \$28million. Can the Minister inform us of which institutions or who are the benefits on the Shipping grants initiatives for this year?

And item 5300 is another shipping grant initiative for 2014 of \$9million. Are there any criteria which the Ministry has used to determine which shipping or which groups or institutions the Ministry will assist with this \$9million shipping grant initiative in 2014?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** For the funding for this year there are two figures that appeared there. The bidding actually went to \$26million, \$27million or \$28million, but the actual funding is \$14million. Going to the funding for next year which is \$9million; as you know the basic principal of the Government shipping initiative or policy, never mind what people say about, that policy is basically to ensure that basic shipping services is provided to our rural areas. That is the underlying principal of the Government intervention on shipping and the shipping sector.

Maybe on the side of business wise, it is important for sustainability of shipping which the Government has provided. But the Government all along before Independence have tried its best recognising the fact that islands are an island economy and shipping is very crucial to our economy and then the Government intervenes all through these years spending millions of dollars to ensure that in remote areas basic shipping services is provided there.

I do not think the Government is in the business of rewarding performances of the shipping sector. In fact when there are sectors which the Government has helped have performed; that is the reason why the Government should not intervene. Where there is failures, I think the Government is obliged not to leave these places to the peril. The Government is obliged to keep on ensuring that basic shipping services are provided throughout the country.

There has been arguments raised that 50constituencies in this country is entitle to shipping, no, that is not correct. Government policy is to ensure that shipping services is provided throughout our areas.

In Choiseul the Government has already helped them and they are doing well, so there is no reason for the Government to intervene again because the Government has intervene and work for them and good for them. If it fails, yes, the Government will intervene and help them.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Mr Chairman, the Minister has stood up and talks too much but he fails to answer the first part of my question. Who are the beneficiaries of the 2013 under this shipping initiative grants? That is the first part of my question and he fail miserably to answer it.

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** Thank you Chairman, we are talking about the budget of 2014. What is the budget of this year got to do with this?

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you, Minister, take it easy do not be worried. Have we already year mark who we going to assist with the \$9million next year?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** Thank you Chairman, I am taking this easy but I am responding to a question that is accusing me, but for the \$9million it is not yet allocated. It is put down there hoping that we will assist maybe former shipping interests. It is a figure that will help three or four groups next year.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** On average on the prices of the ships that we normally purchase, how many boats will the amount of \$9milliion cater for?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** The ships that we were talking about are second hand ships; we cannot get new ships on such amounts. We usually get second hand ships on the Japanese market and the current price of ships in the second hand market is about Yen\$21million to Yen\$22million. So you can get a ship in the Japanese market for about \$2.5million, \$2.6million or \$2.7million. Unless you want to get a ship that is quite new then you will have to put in a bit more.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On the allocation of roads and bridges which is item 5200 of \$29million. Is it free for us to submit bids to it like the shipping allocation or does the Ministry already have a program to follow for spending of this \$29million?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** Yes, for this \$29million the Ministry has its plan for it according to Trust board plan but some request can come in so that is the Head where are trying to be flexible on and see if we can assist the requests that comes in throughout the year.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 59 'Rural Transport Infrastructure program 2014.' On the consultancy fees of \$6.7million, can the Minister elaborate on that \$6.7million?

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** If you see there, there are two Heads that have the same descriptions. One is meant to deal with getting things on the ground and actual work and the other one is meant to deal with the administration and consultancy work and survey that come along with that. It is used to be under one Head but under the new Chart of Accounts there have separated it so that it comes out clear. So the tendering process and all the survey and all that have been covered under that particular Head.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** I am glad to see aid donors like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan and AusAid who are beginning to assist financially on the infrastructure projects. I am happy to see item 0620 'Pollution and waste management at Mataniko River.' That is a lot of money which is totalled to almost \$50million. Can explain what this program is going to do? Is it going to clean the river only or what this project going to deal with just for the Minister to inform the Committee? I am sad to see tins and all sort of rubbish in the river which should be nice and clean so that we could use it for recreation and beautify the place.

**Hon Seth Gukuna:** Thank you Chairman. The page that we are on is on non-appropriated funds. Do we normally talk about those funds or not?

**Mr Chairman:** You are right Minister, but this is part of the schedule here and we will vote on that. Minister you have something to say. It is you who brought this budget.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** The Minister should be able to explain that.

*Head 477 agreed to.*

**Head 479: National Parliament - \$5million.**

*Pages 69 & 70*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you. Item 2501 with an allocation of \$1million for non-residential building for the exterior and interior refurbishment. Is this for this Parliament Building? Because I have asking for us to pain the outside.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** It is for the Parliament Building.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you Mr Chairman. As you know the Parliamentary Committees have increased, and the work of the Chairman and the Committees are increasing as well. Where in the budget can we feature the works of the Committees and their Chairmen, and the Secretary?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** I think you were not here when we go through the Recurrent Budget.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. All the allocations are straight forward. Sir, the Paul Tovua Complex and the Parliament Building are good. But if we could have a walk way joining these two buildings. May be the House Committee should look at this.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Chairman, it is a very good suggestion. This is best suggestion for Christmas. So we will work on that.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** I want more information about this allocation and that is about the sport improvement at the Paul Tovua Complex. There is an allocation of around million dollars that is there and despite the fact that the building is still new but when it is raining some rain drops then to come in my room. Hence, is there something wrong with this building?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** My office is also experiencing the same problem, but we will fix it.

*Head 479 agreed to.*

**Head 480 – Ministry of Forestry and Research - \$10, 370,000.00**

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** I want us to check the totals, in the bricks it is \$11, 370,000 but in the schedule it is \$10,370,000 so we a clarification on this before we can go on to vote?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** You turn to the other page under the donor funded development and you can find the real figure. That is on the page 10 of the Bill and it is the \$1million that makes the difference and there should be a donor funded of \$1million. Hence, for the \$1million we will vote for that very shortly under the

donor funded and \$10.3million in the SIG recurrent. So that makes the difference between the ministry of Education and the rest.

*Page 76 & 77*

**Mr Peter Shanel Agoavaka:** When we ask our questions to the Ministers, it is not about test question of 'Yes' or 'No' (Wrong or right). It is to draw more information because for us on this side of the House we do not know about the budget and we want to know and draw more information from the Ministers, so that you Ministers could inform us well on how you are going to use the budget. The Minister of Infrastructure is an irresponsible Minister because he is not able to answer questions in which the House is keen to know about.

So going back to page 77, I would like to ask the Minister on whether the national forest biomass survey and carbon inventory; are you going to continue with this program or what is going to happen?

**Hon Dickson Mua:** Thank you Chair, work on the forest biomass and carbon inventory survey still continues and basically we started off in Western and Malaita Provinces.

*Head 480 agreed to*

#### **Head 481: Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$2million**

*Pages 81 & 82*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like to add on to the comment of the Member of Parliament for Central Guadalcanal. And I would also want to talk like this; on the Committee of Supply we do not have any Government side and Opposition side. We are all one Committee so do not get us wrongly if we are asking questions because the Committee is keen to know. So I would like to remind Members of Parliament that if we are asking questions to you good Ministers try and answer them honestly and truthfully because we are all one Committee, just a reminder for all of us to be aware of.

**Mr Chairman:** And backbenchers can also ask questions too.

**Hon Dr Derek Sikua:** Yes, exactly. Backbenchers can also ask questions to Ministers too. I would like to know about the infrastructure programs of Prime Minister's Office. There is a number there if the Prime Minister would care to inform the Committee on what infrastructure programs which they are going to spend a lot of money on?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Thank you Sir, before I answer that I am sure this side of the House is fully aware of the importance and the role of the Committee of the Whole House. We have gone through the budget ourselves and have asked questions to the Caucus and the Cabinet. So if the Ministers and Backbenchers ask the same question again it will be a waste of time so that is why you will see that most of our backbenchers are sitting there.

But I am sure that if any critical issue arises they will rise. But I think it is a good point that Parliament is Parliament and we are all here as elected representatives of our people to participate in Parliament.

Just on the budget here, these four line items here are divided into the various cost natures. They are survey, architectural design and geotech drilling for the new office of the Prime Minister. So that was the plan, it is a plan that I am sure that in the past you might have thought of it. The cost in dividing all these will involve, like for instance in sub item 5100 on the new Chart of Accounts will be Capex non-residential which means that these are expenses that will relate to the engagement of an architectural design. A term of reference will be developed, put to the central tender board and after the central tender board agrees it will be put out for advertising. It will commence from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development then to the Ministry of Planning which then will be approved then to the central tender board before it goes out.

Sir, the part for next year is basically on this particular office, and then there is another one which is on political integrity and stability; both are on sub item 2004 and 2005. These are for political integrity and stability and the land institutional program which unfortunately our team leader has passed away, so now we have approached two people to possibly take over that responsibility.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 82, sorry these are for donors and we are not allowed to talk on them. I have just notice that it is an AusAid funded program for the Leadership Code Commission. I was going to ask the Prime Minister that for this more than \$1million, what is it for?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Thank you Sir, as you that currently we are carryout the review of the Leadership Codes Act, so that we reflect the many concerns that people had about the non-effectiveness of this piece of legislation and the way that it has been operated and subservience to political government and things like that.

The initial idea that came out is that mostly we will be moving away from that into a more open integrity commission. So it could mean the amalgamation of the

Ombudsman and the Leadership Code into one Commission. But a Commission that is more independent and that the resourcing has to be independently made and they have greater autonomy in the way that they run their own affairs and therefore we will not risk placing into being compromise as has been currently argued by some sectors in our society.

*Head 481 agreed to.*

**Head 483: Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services - \$80million**

*Pages 85 & 86*

*Head 483 agreed to.*

**Head 484: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening - \$41million**

*Pages 89, 90 & 91*

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I just want the Minister to explain the nature of the consultancy work that we are going to pay \$2.9million for.

**Hon Silas Tausinga:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The consultancy fee mainly covers PCDF assessment teams. This consists of auditors, accountant, development specialists, and architectural designers for the buildings that will be conducted in other PCDF Projects, procurement analyst and monitoring and evaluation specialists.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** On item 5100 is for non-residential building of more than \$5.6million. Where are the non-residential buildings?

**Hon Silas Tausinga:** These non-residential buildings are mainly warehouse in provinces of Makira and Isabel there are copra sheds and these two provinces have benefited from this one. And also for classrooms, for example in the West and Lata it has been done. This also includes clinics, office buildings and markets have been benefited by our provinces like Western, Guadalcanal and Buala in the Isabel provinces.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I am still on page 89 on item 5350, 'vehicle,' for which unit?

**Hon Silas Tausinga:** Thank you Mr Chair, and thank you Member of Parliament for East Choiseul for the question. This is for a tractor for Western Province.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The Choiseul Township Development Programme or Project. This year we have allocated some funds. I just want to ask the Minister about the work that they have you done this year. Then next year 2014, you ask for funds again under the Provincial Township Development Programme. What are your plans for next, 2014 and what have you done this year 2013?

**Hon Silas Tausinga:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The Ministry is currently engaging contractors to do demarcation Lot 9 and Lot 277 at the new site in Choiseul Bay. Work is currently going on now in Choiseul Bay, and a report should be finalised by mid-January, and physical activities will start in 2014.

*Head 484 agreed to.*

**Head 485: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey - \$14million**

Pages 95, 96 & 97

**Mr John Moffat Fugui:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 95, Items 2001, 2004 and 5600 is on Land Reform (TOL) Honiara. Can the Minister explain why there are no allocations in 2014, although there were allocations in 2013 in the revised budget?

**Hon Joseph Onika:** Thank you Mr Chairman. That Head on page 95 is now on page 96 under Solomon Islands Urban Management Programme.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Can the Minister inform the House about the nature of the consultancy work that the Ministry will pay with the \$2.2million?

**Hon Joseph Onika:** Thank you Mr Chairman. That \$2million will be used to engage three local experts to head this Unit.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Those allocations are for land development, preparation and construction. Are those allocations used to make roads and other services like water and electricity to the land that you allocate for those who apply for the land? If so, is there any allocation for road, water and electricity for Jackson ridge?

**Hon Joseph Onika:** Thank you Chairman, if look in there we have allocated \$3million for site development and this to cater for the roads, water supply and electricity.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agoavaka:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Land issue is one of the very sensitive issues that we have and if we do not handle it properly we will go down the path that we have gone through in year 2000. I just look through the land title legislations or amendments and I just want to ask the Minister if there is plan for the Ministry to bring land title amendment into our legislations.

**Hon Joseph Onika:** Thank you Mr Chairman and colleague Member for Central Guadalcanal. Those amendments will come next year.

Page 97, 98 & 99

*Head 485 agreed to.*

**Head 486 – Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination - \$2million**

Pages 103, 104 & 105

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Can the Minister inform the committee more about the consultancy work that we will pay for \$1.3million?

**Hon Connelly Sandakabatu:** That Head 2004 is for the consultancy fees, we have been engaging about three consultants to help with the Ministry and the other Ministries in drawing up this medium term development plan. That is now been passed by the Cabinet and is ready for implementation in 2014. And we are anticipating or will be engaging these local consultants as well in trying to align the National Development Strategy with the Ministerial plans for 2014 when we come to try and work on expanding that budget. So I think that is where we are with the consultancy fees.

**Hon Douglas Ete:** Chairman, I am still on consultancy fees. I just wonder because the Public Accounts Committee has made a recommendation to your Ministry to speed up the implementation process. I just wonder if you have something imputed into your Ministry; a system where consultations in terms of project implementation

is already there or you are planning it to improve the monitoring and evaluation and coverage on all other Ministries.

I am saying this because if nothing happens we will come back to the same old red tapes and bureaucracy that has already exist in four years running. I want the Minister to inform Parliament on how the improvement should be done. I am saying this because of the low implementation rate.

**Hon Connelly Sandakabatu:** Thank you Chairman and thank you Honourable Member. We have a system in place and we have on-going work on monitoring and evaluation of how effective these systems are, we have also under 20061 on 'conference, seminars and workshops'. We also have our focal points of people in respective Ministries that we are working closely with. And also it is part of our on-going program as well to hold workshops and continue to refine and work on these areas so that issues there maybe we hope to also iron them out.

**Hon John Maneniaru:** Thank you Chairman. I just want to make a comment in respect of the consultancy fees. Chairman, if you look on this case itself it means that more than half of the estimate goes to consultancy fees. And what is evident here is that when our development partners put in money a bigger portion of it goes to the fees and a bit of it goes to the actual programs and activities. I want to register that because it looks like the money that has been given to us has been followed.

The other concern that lives with our locals who are counterparts is that they get less from the fees but they seem to be doing most of the work. From information that I have our counterparts seems to be well versed with those job but they get less money compared other foreign consultants.

Having made that comment I really thank our donor partners for their programs and also the funding assistance that they give to our country.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you very much Sir. As you know the development budget of the Ministry of Planning have also infringed in other development budget as well on other line Ministries. For example, on the Ministry of Lands some major development of the Ministry of planning is infringed in the Ministry of Lands where they are responsible for lands. My question is, for some developments that are not feasible because of land issues should not be appeared in the budget because it gives false hope to people of this country that they cannot feasibly do this project or development project because of land issues. I would like to

ask the Minister on whether; when he did his development planning, did he consider such issues?

**Hon Connelly Sadakabatu:** Certainly, that is one of our main criteria in confirming a budget from a particular Ministry. This is formed on a basis of our consultations with relevant Ministries and land issues or any other issues that is pertain to land is one which we draw heavily on and if there is, then that budget will not go down as a budget.

*Head 486 agreed to*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank Chairman; I would like to ask the Minister on money for the tourism projects for constituencies, what item does it come under?

**Hon Samuel Manetoali:** Thank you Mr Chairman and Honourable Member for North East Guadalcanal and Leader of Opposition for that question. If you look at page 107, 'Eco-tourism Development 2014', you will see an amount of \$5million there. But that does not mean that it will go to Constituencies, application will be on merit. There must be some assessments of the projects that had already been funded in the previous years, and if you have done well in the constituencies. Yes, please apply. That is the process now.

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you Chairman. On the same head 'Eco-tourism Development 2014'. Thank you Minister for clarifying the funding for 2014.

In terms of success, take for example 40constituencies are successful in your funding my good Minister; in 2012 you have given in \$560,000 to constituencies and in 2014 \$400,000. If constituencies do well and understanding that tourism projects are millions; so if the case now people do their own application what are you going to do with those projects because it cannot even support constituencies with this \$5million?

My fear is that a lot of investment that we have put to tourism that \$960,000 it means we are doing away with some constituencies because there is no consistency. Mind you we have done good programs but I fear that you could not support the good work which your Ministry have already done.

**Hon Samuel Manetoali:** It is true that we have many projects already throughout the 50 Constituencies but this time taking into consideration the amount that is given to us some will miss out and some will have it. But those successful ones that does

their best in our constituencies, if the assessment and what they have done is great then they should apply to the Ministry to get certain portion of that funding.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** On this allocation again for eco-tourism development, take for example in my constituency there was seven last year and 10 this year which totalled to 17. But there will be some that would need beds, cups, spoons and plates for people to eat. If we divide that \$5million among us we are going to have \$100,000 each. Is it going to be difficult to divide that, so that I could have the change to apply for my eco-tourism operators? I want the Minister to answer my question.

**Hon Samuel Manetoali:** Yes, if we going to divide it among our constituencies you are right. But the idea of the Ministry is that it wants to give more support to those who have done very well. We have to invest more on those that have already done something already. But to divide it equally that would not be the situation in our case but it is a matter that we could take into consideration as time goes on.

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister for his support because in Central Guadalcanal the track from Gold Ridge down through Weather Coast is there and we also have the Popomanaseu tracking and also we have the Tenaru waterfalls and behind it is the Betilonga caves. I thank the Minister for the support. One of our assets in the country is the Anuha Island Resort. I just want to ask the Minister about this. What is happening with the Anuha Island Resort?

**Hon Samuel Manetoali:** Thank you Mr Chairman and thank you Honourable Member for Central Guadalcanal for your comments. In relation to Anuha, the only thing at the moment is just the money to register the lease. That is just the issue at the moment. But the Ministry is working on it. I could not be able to properly answer your question at the moment. But I would like to say that the Anuha Project is on the way, the money to register the lease is the problem at the moment.

**Mr. John Moffat Fugui:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I am a bit tentative to the answers of the Minister because it seems to be too good to be true. Let me give you a scenario, then I will ask my question. Last year's tourism funds for Central Honiara, what we did was that we got the cheques together through the Constituency and put a company to order the vehicles because we were doing ordering of vehicles for tourists around Honiara. This has really changed this year. What happened was that,

and this is the responsibility of the Minister to take care and control of his Ministry. They gave single cheques differently for applicants, which is good. My problem is that, how do they the cheques will go to the right person. Secondly, if the cheques are released, how do they know that it will be diverted to other reasons other than what the intention of the Tourist Projects for Central Honiara? Thirdly, how do we account for those kinds of cheques that are released but we are not aware of? To make it worse, they ask for commission. The worst Ministry is the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. The Minister and Permanent Secretary must go and visit the desks if that is possible to check if these people are doing their work as expected. Because we assume too much, the world is different. We are running parole systems that are not working.

That said Mr Chairman, my question for the Minister is, what are the criteria that they put together for very diverse constituencies to amount what is success? Central Honiara is certainly different from Lau/Mbaelelea or even Fataleka, if the Member for Fataleka is here. So I just want to ask the Minister who is doing very well. What criteria do they have so it amounts objectively, if not subjectively to what is success with those projects. Because we want to on this to extent tourism in the country. That so sure, but our problem is that, with all these diversity with the diverse conditions in the constituencies and every aspects of it. How do you judge in terms of what is the success of our projects. If the Minister can help us answer the question.

**Hon Samuel Manetoali:** Thank you Mr Chairman, and thank you Honourable Member for Central Honiara for that very good question. There is a guideline which is already there; I have a copy with me. And what will be priority are projects that promote and encourage the following; tourist attraction sites and destination development, eco-tourism transport activities and special events, upgrading of existing products and services. Those are the projects that would be given priority according to the guidelines. We do have a guideline in place in which these funds could be given to the applicants.

*Head 487 agreed to.*

#### **Head 488 – Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour & Immigration**

*Page 115, 116 & 117*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you, on page 166 on the consultancy. Can the Minister inform the committee the nature of that work?

**Hon Elijah Doro Muala:** The consultancy fee that is there is to for the expertise consultancy mainly for the SME or MSME a program or the financial institutions seek a sort of credit facilities for inclines Solomon Islands Business. Also that fee is for the expertise for marketing and promotion in terms of SME programs.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Thank you, on page 116 item 5050 – land allocation there is \$2million for it and the other one below it which 5100 on non-residential building there is an allocation of more than \$1.6million. Hence, can the Minister explain the land which they are going to acquire and what is this new building for?

**Hon Elijah Doro Muala:** Thank you Chair for the question. The \$2million that is there for the land that is for the two leftover parcel numbers for the development of Suava, we have already acquired most of it and only two parcel of it is left and so that is what that allocation is for.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Mr Chairman, I asked about two items, one of them is below the other which is 5100 and so can the Minister also answer this question as well.

**Hon Elijah Doro Muala:** Sorry for that inconvenience but the answer for that is, that allocation for the market house and a warehouse as well at Suafa.

*Head 488 agreed to*

#### **Head 489: Ministry of Communication and Aviation - \$20million**

*Page 123 & 124*

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I understand that *Lata* airport has been closed by landowners. I would like to know if any of the allocation is allocated to solve the problem by talking with landowners and sort out issues with the landowners. And I suppose with Gounaru and other airport that have land issues. If the Minister can help the Committee in trying to solve the problem with landowners, is there any budget here that can help us to deal with those issues?

**Hon Walter Folotalu:** Thank you Chairman. Yes, in provincial airfields one is consultancy fees and that is allocated for negotiations and bargaining to see the landowning groups. As far as *Lata* is concern we have try to negotiate with them with a more amicable way so that we can come to a compromise and open up the airfield. Some of these airfields are registered airfields but airfields as we know are not like wharfs where ship can arrive there despite of agreements. But in airfield it is

not like that so we have tried everything possible. But going back to our question, yes, funds are there.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Specifically, on the \$7.5million allocation for non-residential buildings under the Provincial Airport Programs; can the Minister brief Parliament on his work plans for next year?

**Hon Walter Folotalu:** Thank you Chairman and Member for East Choiseul. This is for maintenance of the provincial airfields and I am looking very seriously to maintain some of these provincial airfields and at least a tarmac or tar sealed is somewhere so that planes can land during any weather. It is not a big amount but we will do what we can do.

**Mr. Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. In that case the posting and narration will be wrong since it is for non-residential building. What the Minister has described is maybe this accounting code 5250 'structure airfields and wharfs' but we do not have that code there. This is specifically for non-residential buildings. Can the Minister explain it again?

**Hon Walter Folotalu:** Thank you Chairman. Non-residential is to make fencings for terminals like in Munda we are looking at terminals in nature of these domestic airports. So that is that amount for.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Just a general question on our international airport at Munda. I would like to ask the Minister because yesterday's newspaper stated that it is going to be closed. Is it going to be really closed and where is money for addressing the issues which landowners have claimed and eventually they wanted to close the airport because we are spending so much money to it? But it seems to be undergoing land problems that would make that facility very expensive. Can the Minister brief the committee on this?

**Hon Walter Folotalu:** Those matters are matters which the Ministry of Lands and the Prime Minister's Office could take of it. But once they trespass into the Aviation Ministry then that is the time that we going to discuss this with the Ministry responsible in trying to address the issues.

*Head 489 agreed to*

**Head 490: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - \$8,340,000.**

*Pages 127, 128, 129 & 130*

*Head 490 agreed to.*

**Head 491: Ministry of Public Service - \$4million**

*Page 133 & 134*

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 134, 'Head 0620 Tatamba AHC Renovation 2014' comes under Public Service. I think it should go under medical, and I would like the Minister to explain if there is a special reason for that.

**Hon Stanley Festus Sofu:** Thank you Chairman. I would like to thank the Member of Parliament for West Are Are. What you have said is right it should not to be there.

*Head 491 agreed to.*

**Head 492: Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs - \$9million.**

*Pages 137 & 138*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I think the Prime Minister is here so I think he could answer my question. My question is on page 137, Item 5100 'Non-Residential Building' under the institutional infrastructure program of almost \$6million. What is this for?

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Thank you Chairman. This is for the refurbishment around the Ministry of Justice.

*Head 492 agreed to.*

**Head 493: Ministry of Home Affairs - \$1.5million**

*Pages 141 & 142*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Page 141, what sort of license?

**Hon Manasseh Maelanga:** Thank you Mr Chairman. The license is for software.

*Head 493 agreed to.*

**Head 494: Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace - \$3million**

*Pages 145 & 146*

*Head 494 agreed to.*

**Head 495: Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification - \$21,020,000.**

*Pages 149, 150, 151, 152, 153 & 154*

**Mr John Maneniaru:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Page 149, Tina River Hydro Power Development Project. Can the Minister point out where exactly is the support for this in 2014?

**Hon Moses Garu:** It will be inside the component of renewable energy program on the Head 261, 5575 and 6414, thank you.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** On page 150, item 5575 is for specialised equipment and so can the Minister explain what type of specialised equipment this is for?

**Hon Moses Garu:** Which page are we on?

**Mr Chairman:** Honourable Leader of Opposition, can you repeat your question?

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Yes, on page 150 item 5575 which is close to the bottom, it is the renewable energy development program 2014. That is a big allocation of \$9.5million and what specialised equipment are we going to pay under this allocation for Tina hydro?

**Hon Moses Garu:** That Head under the renewable energy development program is to take care some of the projects or programs under the renewable energy program. That is the solar for schools and clinics and mini hydro that the Ministry would like to start next year.

**Hon. Derek Sikua:** Still on page 150, the various allocations for constituency renewable rural electrification. It is quite a number with bearing allocations and so can the Minister explain how he can deal with the constituencies under those various allocations, starting with 2004 to 6177?

**Hon Moses Garu:** Thank you Chair. This component is to support the 50 constituencies to improve the livelihood of rural dwellers through support of the solar program. There will be a little shift next year where the Ministry would like to; now that a good portion of our country has already have solar the Ministry would like to go ahead with the actual program of training communities to manage their

solar equipments so that they can do their own maintenance and sustainability of the lives of their equipments.

*Head 495 agreed to*

**Head 496: National Judiciary - \$3million**

*Pages 157 & 158*

*Head 496 agreed to*

**Head 497: Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs - \$4million.**

*Pages 161, 162 & 163*

**Mr. John Manenairau:** Thank you Chairman. Page 164 Head 0666 'Prevent HIV and STD for Young People 2014'. How is the Ministry going to conduct this very important program? Is it in consultation with the Ministry of Health or do they have their own specific programs?

**Hon Peter Tom:** Thank you Chairman for the question raised by the Honourable Member for West Are Are. This will be in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Just going back to page 161. This allocation on item '2004' is consultancy fees. If the Minister can explain this on how he is going to deal with this allocation in regard to consultancy services that he will recruit?

**Hon Peter Tom:** Thank you Chairman for the question. The budget will cater for consultancy fees to do the following; develop youth and employment, strategy, possible donor funding support, revise youth at work program, level of youth and peace building plan of action, review youth mainstreaming program, review juvenile offenders Act, possible donor funding support, establish training program on financial literacy for women and girls, restructure national advisory and action committee on children, review Ministry's cooperate plan, revised training manual for gender mainstreaming in the Public Service, possible support from donor Conservation on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) constructive dialogue and possible support from donor.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** It sounds like there is more work, so how many consultants are you going to recruit for the Varsity of work, if the Minister can inform the committee on the number of people they intend to hire to do all that long list of task?

**Hon Peter Tom:** We need eight consultants.

**Hon John Moffat Fugui:** Thank you Chairman, I would like to make a comment before I ask a question. If you listen to what the Minister has just stated all those things is what they called bunk, in terms of the relevance of all those things not only women and children but men and our people. I want the Minister to take hold of the Ministry and contextualise it in the culture of Solomon Islands. It looks like this Ministry has been aid driven and so we are doing Australian things, feminist things, gender things and not our own things. If I am the Minister there I would have change everything there because it is quite irrelevant to what we think of.

I would like to ask the Minister in that view on Head 0620 on the Australian Aid bilateral which is \$10,200,000 and then the other one is for gender equity \$3,400,000. On the TA, what will be involved in there thus being allocated \$10,200,000.00. And where are we in this thing?

**Hon Peter Tom:** Thank you Mr Chairman. This will go towards a Gender Advisor.

*Head 497 agreed to.*

**Head 498: Ministry of Rural Development - \$94,400,000.**

*Pages 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173 & 174*

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. On page 169, Constituency Development Programme (SIG). Can the Minister explain how we will implement these since we lock them under specific sub items like 2004 Constituency Development (SIG) which is consultancy with an allocation of \$5.5million? May be the Minister can explain can explain this, firstly, what is that consultancy, and may be generally, how you will implement those programmes through the Constituencies?

**Hon Lionel Alex:** Thank you Mr Chairman and I also thank the Member for East Choiseul for that very important question. As we draw towards this Constituency Development Plans Acts that we have already passed. And now we have seen that

all these SIG funds have now come under Constituency Development Programme. The Ministry is expecting from each of the 50 Constituencies a Development Plan. Through the drawing of the Development Plans, these funds can be drawn out or we can access them. So we can draw those funds from the Ministry depends very much on your Constituency Development Plans.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you. What about the Constituencies that already have a Constituency Development Plan? Are we going to draw up another Constituency Development Plan?

**Hon Alex Lionel:** Thank you Chair, I wish to thank the member for East Choiseul for the second question, for those constituencies that have already submitted their development plans. Yes, ministry will continue to look into that development plan and it depends on how you submit the proposals according to the development plan. But for those where do not submit the development plan, I think quit a number a lot of them a lot of constituencies not yet and so ministry will wait for those development plans.

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Yes, I will have a Constituency Development Plan and then try and use the Constituency Funds according to the plan, but how we work with the Chart of Accounts will not be relevant to the expenses that I will have in my constituency. For example, 2004 is Consultancy, 2103 is General Stores and Spares, 2511 is for Maintenance and Other Equipments, 4027 is for Subventions and Grants, and how do the expenditures for my constituencies is not corresponding to those expenditure items. I will be in big trouble if I use the Constituency Funds not in line with the cording. If you go right down to the end you will find that the expenditure items do not match what you usually spend my money on the constituency funds. Minister, can you explain to the committee how we will use the items of expenditure in line with our expenditures in our constituency funds?

**Hon Alex Lionel:** Thank you Chair and I wish to thank the Leader of Opposition for this very important comment or question. I will say that there is a possibility for us to ask the ministry of planning for you to make a virement if there is a need be from the heads. Just as we continue now, once you look at their heads for this year. That is what exactly we are doing with some of the submissions of our applications. There is a possibility that we can do it, thank you.

179, 180

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you chairman, just a comment and a question which I want to follow up with East Choiseul and the Leader of Opposition had asked the Minister. Just for the Minister to confirm to us when you are still working on the regulations for this Act. Are you going to go into implementation as required by the Act without the regulations?

**Hon Alex Lionel:** Thank you Chair and the Leader of Independent for that very important question as well. At the moment the bipartition does not really come up the final draft of this regulation. I do not even cite and seen it. So at the moment, once the budget is passed, since we still do not gazette the regulation, we will still work with the development plans that we will submit.

**Mr Manasseh Sogavare:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Could be what is really needed when this thing is passed, we need to call the Constituency Development Officers (CDOs) and Project Officers to really understand we implement this. These are very specific allocations. If we strictly interpret it in the way it is presented, we will have different application forms for different allocations, assuming that the allocations are split equally to the constituencies. So we will have different applications for 6177 or 5580. Because for now, there is no application for micro and millennium funds. When the budget is passed, we should call the CDOs and Project Officers so that they explain to us Members of Parliament as to how we are to implement those specific allocations.

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you Chair. I am still having trouble with the implementation. The regulations are not yet made. The regulations will form an important tool for the implement of this budget. In light of the comment made by the Honourable Minister, it looks like we are now creating a situation where it is going to be the fight of the fittest. There are 50 Constituencies, and those that we are ready will move, those that are not ready will be left behind. We have started this system, and I would think that there should be a transition where all of the constituencies will be taken into consideration of the situation that we transit into the new phase in regards to the Law or Act. But the comment made by the Minister makes worry because some of us will proceed. That gives false hope to the nation, and all our constituencies. We just passed a Constituency Development Fund Act that promises them a lot of development in the Constituencies equally, holistically the Solomon Islands, but the one that you talked about worries me.

Sir, furthermore, our systems are not yet in place.

**Mr Chairman:** Can the Honourable ask the question, please?

**Hon John Maneniaru:** I am making a comment in line with the comment made by the Minister. But with your ruling I can sit down, if you do not want me to continue.

**Mr Chairman:** No, I do not stop from making a comment. But it is like you are debating. You just ask the question so that the Minister can answer. Continue please.

**Mr. John Maneniaru:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I think I was making a comment, but it is alright, I can sit down.

*Head 498 agreed to.*

**Head 499: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology - \$18,920,000.**

*Pages 181, 182, 183 & 184*

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. It is page 179 that has some figures for 2014 that I want to ask a question on. I just want to ask the Minister about page 179, there is a capital expenditure allocation of \$5.5million for Non-Residential Building. Is this to build your new Headquarter or Office Building? If the Minister can inform the Committee, and if you are to build, where are you going to build your new office?

**Hon Braddley Tovosia:** Thank you Mr Chairman, and thank you Leader of Opposition for raising that question. You are correct, that \$5.5million is for the new Office Complex for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. We will demolish the current one because it is deteriorating. We should no longer be using that. We will demolish that and we will build that new office at the same site.

**Mr John Moffat Fugui:** Thank you Leader of Opposition for submitting to the Chair. I just want to ask a question next to that because this is good. There is a piece of land contiguous to the Ministry, where there is an Asian person, where he is a citizen or

not, has just acquired. In terms of how we will build there, any possibility of us getting the land there? What I mean is that, it is so close. It can be quite uncomfortable in view of building our Environment Office, which we are 110 percent support behind you. What about that land just close by there? Is it going to affect us, because environment things must be placed in the context of environment things? That is what I just want to ask following what the Leader of Opposition has asked.

**Hon Braddley Tovosia:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I want to thank the Member for Central, who is a former Minister for Environment and also his support for this new building. The Permanent Secretary (PS) and myself have approached the Chairman for us to take that land. I think that process is what we are waiting for the outcome of the correspondences that we give to them and we really have that piece of land so that it can connect to the other office on the other side.

*Head 499 agreed to.*

**The total SIG funded Development Estimates of \$551,093,168 agreed to.**

### **The Donor Funded Development Expenditure**

**Head 470 – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development- \$7,000,000**

*All Agreed to.*

**Head 472 – Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development-\$17,000,000**

*Head 472 agreed to.*

**Head 480: Ministry of Forestry and Research - \$1million**

*Head 480 agreed to.*

**Head 481: Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$4million**

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Just a general question for the Prime Minister. Our infrastructure projects for the Parliament, are they going okay? A new office for the Opposition is what I want to ask the Prime Minister about if he has any plans for it. Because I think that building is now old. So I just want to ask the Prime Minister about any plans to build a new office for the Opposition because we will go in that building at one stage.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Thank you. So you say, I will take note of that. But I think the point raised by the Leader is a very valid one. For Parliament to be effective, every offices of the Parliament must be given the kind of importance and make sure that those infrastructures are well maintained to the standard that will make people to work effectively and efficiently in those offices. So it is a very good suggestion that the Leader has made. The Leader and I will talk about it. It is a good idea that ROC will fund. But the Office of the Leader is situated at a prime site. The problem that we have is that, if a new Commissioner comes and sell that land, we will have a problem. The Leader of Opposition, make sure to put caveat so that no one will sell that land.

**Mr Peter Shanel Agovaka:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Just on the comment by the Prime Minister on the Office of the Leader of Opposition. Can we put that as part of Parliament precinct? May be the Prime Minister might to answer that.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo:** Chairman it makes sense. But the Office of the Opposition is an institution within Parliament that we really need to develop independently. Maybe because of the circumstances of those titles that are given to Parliament and every other offices within Parliament. But I think the point raised by the Leader is a very important point. These institutions must be well developed. They can only be effective if we resource them well, quite apart from the fact that some of us could stay there sometimes because some of us have already been there before so we moved away from there.

*Head 481 agreed to*

**Head 495: Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification - \$1million.**

**Mr. Peter Shanel Agovaka:** If the Minister of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification can assure the House on the important components in his development budget particularly the Community Micro Hydro Feasibility Study Program? There is a zero allocation shown there, can the Minister inform us on whether the program will continue or not?

**Hon Moses Garu:** Thank you Chair and thank you colleague Member for your question. Yes, this program will continue but it will be under our regional programs.

*Head 495 agreed to*

**Head 498: Ministry of Rural Development - \$50million.**

*Head 498 agreed to*

*The total of donor funded Development Estimates of \$80million agreed to.*

*The total Development Estimates of \$631,093,168.00 agreed to.*

**Mr Chairman:** Honourable Members, before I put the question on the Expenditure, I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee that you have in front of you a list of errors and oversights to be corrected at the Third Reading. We will correct those during the Third Reading. Members, we will note that the correct total Expenditure will be \$3,351,366,054.00, and not \$3,334,461,596.00. This is not what we will vote; we will vote the first figure that I have read.

*First Schedule agreed to.*

**Second Schedule**

*Second Schedule agreed to.*

**Clause 1**

*Page 4*

*Clause agreed to.*

**Clause 2**

*Clause 2 as corrected agreed to.*

**Clause 3**

*Clause 3 agreed to.*

**Clause 4**

**Hon Derek Sikua:** Thank you Mr Chairman. Just reference to the Public Financial Management Act, for the Minister to confirm that the Act will come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January or does it already take effect?

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you Mr Chairman and I want to thank the Honourable Leader of Opposition for the question. Yes, that is correct; the PFM Act will take effect from January 2014.

*Clauses 4, 5, 6 & 7 agreed to.*

**Mr Chairman:** Honourable Members this brings our proceedings in the 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013 to a conclusion. This Committee of Supply therefore stands dissolve. And the Honourable Minister who is in charge of the Bill will report to the House when Parliament resumes.

*Parliament resumes.*

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Mr Speaker, I wish to report that the '2014 Appropriation Bill 2013' has passed through the Committee of Supply without amendments.

**Mr Speaker:** The Honourable Minister reports due consideration of the Bill by the Committee of Supply without amendments. However, I understand that the Minister wishes to table a list of corrections under the Standing Order 58 (2) before we proceed to the Third Reading of the Bill.

**Hon Rick Houenipwela:** Thank you, by now Members should have a list containing the typing errors that were identified. The table identifies the errors and describes how those will be corrected. Sir, I table that list for the Parliament's records.

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members the House has been informed of the corrections that will be made to the Bill under the Standing Order 58 (2). These corrections will be made to the Bill according to the table before it will be send to his Excellency, the Governor General for signing.

#### **BILLS – THIRD READING**

**"Bills – Third reading."**

**"The 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013"**

**Hon RICK HOUNIPWELA (Minister for Finance):** Mr Speaker, I moved that the 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013 be now read the third time and do pass.

#### **MOTIONS**

**"Motions – motion of sine die"**

**Hon GORDON DARCY LILO** (*Prime Minister*): Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to move this very important motion of sine die, that at the adjournment of Parliament today, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013, the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall then stand adjourn sine die. This motion is an important motion as it is part of our Parliamentary democracy and it is usually moved at the end of each meeting. As we all know that session has been entirely devoted to the 2014 budget as presented in the schedule to the 2014 Appropriation Bill 2013. But like I have indicated in my opening debate on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, the Members of Parliament had demonstrated enormous commitment to the work Parliament in spite of the precious of the Christmas and festive seasons. And in that regard Sir, I would like to once again register my appreciation to your good self, Mr Speaker, the Clerk, Staff of Parliament, in particular for your time and dedication. Equally I really wanted to appreciate all Members of Parliament, the Leader of Opposition, Members of the Opposition Group, the Leader of the Independent and Members of the Independent Group, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers and all Backbenchers of the government for their high quality debate, as well as their criticisms and the comments on the Recurrent and Development Budgets at the Committee of Supply stage.

Sir, you have no doubt lived up to the expectations of leadership that our people have held closely. And I am sure that this will be appreciated right across the country. I wish to make a few remarks on matters which are specifically related to this sitting of Parliament. But before I do that, I would like to spend some time just to reflect on some of the bigger pictures which I believe are important and are fitting in a motion like this to be stated.

Sir, I urge all of us to reflect on how we have come as a people and as a nation to this stage. Interestingly during the budget debates, we have at times focused on budget; strictly just on the budgets lines, revenues and expenditures, and sometimes often lost sight of the bigger picture. But the bigger picture is this, Sir, that ultimately we are together, pushing and advancing the same national agenda on behalf of our people. And as a people, we must know that we are a strong and resilient people. We have looked after ourselves for thousands of years, even before the explorers arrived on our shores. We have had sea technology and navigational systems, which we have used to travel across our seas. We have developed sedentary village systems which were supported by a system of agriculture which fed our people. We also had our trading networks that span thousands of miles and across many islands. We have had organised warfare and defended ourselves, even though those from the Western and Isabel Province usually make fun about those warfare, that they went headhunting in Isabel. But those in Isabel said that those people only went to look for young girls there. But on the other hand, Sir, we have also build relationships through marriage and friendships. And in short, we are a people who

for many years, have survived and learn to navigate our environments to ensure our existence and progress.

Then came in 1978, Sir, through the wisdom of our founding fathers, we came together under one flag, one anthem and became one people. Nobody forced us into this situation; we came together through our own choice and became what we now know as the independent State of our country, Solomon Islands. There are many people, tribes and groups that came together to pursue a common future and destiny. And in the future of the State and our country, all of our futures are tied and bounded. And in that we have a common destiny. And within that destiny, lies our individual and corporate identity. And then Solomon Islands succeed; we can all say we all succeeded. When Solomon Islands fail, we will all suffer.

But Sir, our common dilemma as a nation is that we have potentials but there are also challenges to which we must consistently engage in. Our potential lies in our natural resources, our natural environment, our seas, land, resources and most importantly our people.

On the other hand our challenge lies in our distance from each other, our lack of access to markets, our land and sea resource, our disconnectivity in terms of transport and communications and our inadequate skill manpower.

In fact when we bring a budget to Parliament, essentially what we were doing is trying to use the budget to build on the opportunities and mitigating the challenges that we are facing and that if I can theme my speech it would on the theme 'building on the opportunities and mitigating the challenges.' One of the biggest opportunities that is quite interesting and challenging is our land. More accurately as one Member of Parliament had already stated is, 'land is not a problem but it is our people and their relationships with each other relating to land that creates the problem.' To take that truth one step further the kind of problems that express around land is only symptomatic of the kinds of problems that are faced in that particular community.

So if you want to see how settled a community is, observe their relationship. So when people dispute an airport, what they are essentially saying is that they are not happy with the other relativities who are not receiving the benefits. And we are trying to resolve these grievances by resorting to land, other land legislation and the Courts. At times the Courts would make a determination but that does not necessarily lead to resolution.

Mr Speaker, all of us here know about this and I suspect that all us know why the current systems are not working as well. But I will submit that the reason why the landlords and the Court systems cannot present lasting solutions to these problems is because the laws and the mechanisms are actually dividing the communities. So

we need to have process of resolving these disputes to be done by the people who are knowledgeable about their area but also a solution that is based on consensus and one that engages the community more effectively.

Sir, these I believe is the basis of the customary land recording program that we had run until the unfortunate passing away of the team leader of the program, the late Mr Nori. But also the system that we now develop in the Tina Hydro development project, and I have mentioned this briefly when commenting on a comment that has been raised by the Member for Central Guadalcanal about the trip that I took together with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Minister of Environment to the Tina river community some two weeks ago. And what we did is that we left the identification of land to the people who know about the land. What we are pushing them to do is that they must identify and finalise the boundaries and the owners. And when that is done, appropriate structures may be developed on those findings to build a community project. We believe it will work and it is for that very reason that I have called upon all land owners and land owning tribes who have potential for development on your land to engage with the government through this approach.

In 2014, we encourage you to come and talk to us about your potential. Open up your lands, so that developments can be carried out in your lands. Because without that, developments cannot happen. As we all know that land here on Guadalcanal had been presented as an issue for grievance underlying the recent social conflict. And to date, no government has taken initiative to resolve some of the understanding claims. The current NCRA Government has in the 2014 Budget had in fact allocated resources to deal with these outstanding claims. And we will try to do commencing with the work on the Land Inquiry based on the boundaries of Honiara and then extend it to certain high interest area within the proximity to this township. And we hope that this will quell some of the anxiety and allow people to relate properly and to develop. But Sir, throughout the debate and even during the Committee of Supply, I heard many people expressed opinions about the lack of capacity to manage, implement and monitor development and so on. I totally agree with those sentiments. And indeed right across the public service, capacity remains a problem. We need to invest into quality programmes that will deliver better capacity in the various organisations and institutions of the government.

If it is of any use, let me just put this reminder to everyone, that the lack of capacity is not only a problem facing this government. Governments in the past have faced the same challenge. But the question is, how do we tackle this? I believe, the answer lies in education, training and mentoring our own people. And if there is

one thing in the 2013 Budget, that we can flag to advance this, then it would be the establishment of our own Solomon Islands National University (SINU). The work that we have all worked together to encourage in ensuring that the University of the South Pacific must have a fourth campus here. And promoting the University of the South Pacific, as well as engaging with other stakeholders and interested parties that have an interest to development educational institutions here in our country. These are now bringing in opportunities because of government's strong support for education. Many governments in the past have talked about. But I think we in this Parliament needs to be congratulated, that together with this Parliament, the government had worked with this Parliament. That we have gone ahead to do it. And with that, I would like to urge all of us that we must continue to support this initiative. Let us direct and redirect this initiative, so that they can charm the kind of people that we need to implement government policy and advance what we all believe as institutions that will help to build better enterprising culture in our own country. And that is our private sector.

Across the country as you know, there are also relevant infrastructures which are established to support movement of people and goods. These include roads, airports and other infrastructures. In 2014, we will continue with the programme to maintain and build this infrastructure and work on effective maintenance programme to undertake maintenance of existing infrastructures.

Let me also say something about the political direction in brief. People have raised the question about the political direction and priority. And let me say this once again, that in the last 35 years, government's emphasis and mode of delivery of service had been through the central administration and the provincial governments. And I can say from my own experience in my constituency, and from what I have seen that much of the resources have got used up in even just running up a bulging bureaucracy. And I am sure if you ask anyone in the village about what government has done in that village in the last 35 years, their answer would not be very different. Sir, we must wake up now to the realities and accept the fact that the system has not worked. Something is inherently wrong with that system. It would not be wrong at all for us to reconsider, to think about redirecting, to think about taking another path of how we are going to approach development. It would not be wrong at all for us to start to rethink, rethink the whole approach, the modality of how we do delivery and even the fundamentals of the paradigms that we have put in our own mind-set as to how we have carried out business over the past 35 years. And it would be right to say we cannot to do the same thing and expect different results. No, Sir, only crazy people will do that. And this is exactly why the government realising that the

Central Government implementation did not work, decided that we have to go through prioritising through the Constituencies and direct resources where they have to be developed and where they can matter better for our people. So that real development must happen. Real development cannot happen if it does not touch the people. That is what makes the difference in development. It becomes real when it touch the people. And the mode of operationalising this policy decision is obviously as I have always said, it is the Constituency Development Fund Act.

And on that note Sir, I want to thank the bipartition committee and those Members of Parliament who have actually visited all of our Constituencies. You have done an excellent job. Surely Sir, the Leader reached Temotu that is where the Premier has ended up at the gallery. He mentioned to me that it was one of the beneficial engagements that he has ever engaged in is the consultation on the Constituency Regulation. And I am sure others who have been assigned to do the other provinces, please you must do it. Who is doing that for the Western Province, people at Gizo are still waiting for you. You did not reach them.

Many of you might question the operationalisation of the regulation, but they will come in force to govern the spending, and we must all account for how those funds affect the lives of the people in our community. But all of us appreciate the role of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and what they have played over the last years in maintaining law, order and peace. It is now clear that RAMSI will now transition into bilateral arrangements, and that RAMSI will slowly scale down or they are now scaling down. This is something that we must accept. We accept responsibility to the rebuilding of our own country. And the question that we must now ask is, was the peace permanent or only temporary? Was the peace a manufactured one? Did we just put on a show so that after the guests returns, everyone just returned to their bad behaviour or the old way of life. However, the determined question to ask is, have the relationships that were severed during the conflict already reconnected and re-established and have fundamental issues of grievances been addressed? This are important questions that I think, you know we need to continue to ask ourselves.

We know that there were two flashpoints of conflicts on the recent years. One is the border between Bougainville and the Shortlands and the other is here on the Guadalcanal at the Weather Coast. Hence, people of these regions needed to be reconciled. In both 2012 and 2013, the Government has invested significant resources in the communities which have been affected by the social conflicts. Hence, the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation was set up to advance peace and reconciliation among people and communities and it has done this through its programs although many times these are reported in the media.

As the Prime Minister I had personally visited many of such communities and most recently we have responded to the needs of the Weathercoast people as the first part of the "Solo Visu" program in the effect to build up the reconciliation at Weathercoast which also involved the our own Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. May be next the Leader of Opposition will go with me because in the past we supposed to but the Leader of Opposition was busy visiting the Premier of Rennell and Bellona Province. But that is important because it has allowed our villagers to return to their villages after been unable live there due to the cultural and traditional restrains. Hence, for that very reason, for 2014 budget we will continue to advance, reconcile at the plus point and also strive to undertake national reconciliation.

As have alluded to, Solomon Islands is still an expensive place to do business and here I want to bring in one aspect that has really raise the cost of doing business in our country and that electricity, water and other utilities that are either lacking or it is just so expensive for us to establish and supply & provide for our country. Besides, not forgetting our taxation regime which is quite inhibitive and the leftover issues of uncertainty of land rights where we have access liquidity. But what is there for our financial institutions to be able to attract land base development.

Furthermore, in order to address our energy need we need to consider clean energy and I think this is the trend that we need to travel along, that is the path of clean energy. This is that path that this government has considered; well not only this government but the government in the past has also followed that path as well. As you know, the Minister of Infrastructure & Development and I, we were in energy before and during those times of 25 years ago we were working along those priorities to try and develop clean energy or renewable energy. But at this point, it is important to bring the two energy development that we will be now is advancing, the Tina river hydro development and the Savo Geothermal. The difference between these two is that, firstly, hydro as you know will fluctuate base on the flow of the river. But the one that with the best load is the geothermal. Once you started it, it will maintain the same level.

The only thing is that, you should not go and argue about it and stop it from going on. But I want to say that both projects are making good progress. In fact as what I have said a week ago, I am still yet to travel to Savo. But two weeks ago I went and visited our chiefs and witness the progress that they have carried out on land identification programme at Tina. And I will repeat again, we did not go there uninvited. No, it is wrong. And I think Chief Kikolo has made that. We never tell him to go and clarify that point. But that visit has been arranged for almost three weeks. And it is to go and just talk with the people because of the difficulty to establish the understanding between those Land Councils. You have the Land Council there, Bahomea and Malango. There have been some difficulties to get the people involved in those three land owning groups. But we were able to go and say to them, this is yours. It is your task to sort yourselves. We will be patient with you. We did not go to them and say to them, you do not listen to this particular person, you do not listen this leader, no! In fact we went and encourage them to resolve the

differences that they have. The government will still be patient with them. But I said to them is that, the role of land identification, we have not taken it away from you. We leave it back to you. We did not put it to the Commissioner of Lands or an Acquisition Officer appointed by the Commissioner of Lands. We took it and put it back to the Chiefs.

I think that is the area where there is disagreement between those three bodies. But the point I wanted to say is that the Land Identification Program that is going on at Tina River would be a role model because it has been done very well. So far it is coming out very well. They have identified who the trustees are; it will be recognised by the Commissioner. That is when registration will happen. We are not going to acquire the land from them. We are not going to advance the concept of alienation of land from the people. We are not going to disempower them. They determine it and it will be vested back to them. And they will also make the choice on who will hold the Fixed Term Estate so that you will avoid the transaction where it will come to the Commissioner of Land and the government, and the government will give it back to the people. No, that will not happen. That is the approach that we are trying to do at Tina. That is exactly what we are advancing in terms of this land recording that is now being advanced through a programme at the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Unabated

But what I am saying is that, these two projects are going ahead. And we believe that by end of the year, we should be able to do tendering, and the construction should start. By 2017, we would expect the project to be completed with the capacity to generate at least a good maximum of the load capacity demand that is now currently being handled by the Solomon Islands Electricity Authority at the main grid in Honiara. We hope this will provide the kind of reliable supply and an alternative to diesel generation. The same will also apply to Savo on the Geothermal there and I am very, very much encouraged by the willingness of all the people to come together; all the leaders to be able to cooperate and formulate the kind of strategy where landowners will see themselves to be engage in this project.

Sir, let me touch a little bit about our common resources; I want to make this point about the common resources. There are certain resources which by default of nature are available only in certain locations, the classic example is mineral. These are all common resources because this is what our Law says and these are vested in the state for a very good reason, and that is for the resources to be harvested and everyone in the country and not just the ones who happen to be located where it is. There are quite a number of literatures that have been written, and one person that always influences my thinking on this is somebody by the name of Paul Kolia who

wrote the book on 'Planted.' Another book he wrote is the bottom billion; why do countries that are so rich in natural resources but they are still right down below?

The question that we are all perhaps grappling with right now is, which system are we going to follow? Is it the state system or it must go to the people? Who can handle this proper so that we can grow with it? We can see the situation that is going on in South Sudan right now. The country has got its independence three years ago and right now they are into ethnic conflict. What could be the cause of that conflict because this is a country that is rich in oil? But they will still be at the bottom I think.

Sir, let us look critically and very carefully into this approach on which one we are going to follow Sir. I want to raise this issue so that we can ask ourselves the question, do we have a common resource and can we develop this concept of a common resource for the benefit of our country and people? I will leave that aside, but I think why it is important for us to ask this question is because right now we do not want our country to be; we must have partnership otherwise we will only become a welfare state. And a state that does not look positively into engaging others, sharing what we can all have so that we can develop and benefit out of it and improve the welfare of our people collectively.

These are some of the issues that I would like to raise in the motion of Sine Die. I do not raise this issue for us to debate against each other; I am raising this issue in this motion of Sine Dine so you could raise some points on what we need to reflect on so that our country can move forward into the future. I do not want this motion for people to talk against each other because this Prime Minister will not do that.

I want us to open up a debate and then let us all agree on finding a way on how we can improve. Sir, I did mention something which I think it ought to be made because I thought that it has to and that is in the context of what we need to do to settle an important outstanding case that our country has faced in the past. And that is the way that we have dealt with the former Attorney General at that time, now the former Attorney General of Solomon Islands. I did announce it and because of how this case has been developed and handled from one jurisdiction to the other. I have already stated during my debate that it was exactly 24<sup>th</sup> of December, interestingly that this former Attorney General was chased out of this country. It came out in the newspapers, so I wanted to settle this case. So that everyone who got caught up in this whole thing will be free. And I thought that is best for us to do it in that way and we move forward into the future.

Sir, this Christmas, and if in the way my government has set up the business of Parliament may have deprived you of the precious time to enjoy the Christmas. What if I suggest to you that we use this occasion to share the message to our people

here? Do you think it is wrong? I do not think so. It reminds me of a text and I want to read it to you. It is in Luke Chapter 2 and verse 10: And then an angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all the people." That is what tomorrow is, so let us use this occasion to bring that joy to our people. It is Christmas time so let me convey to His Excellency, the Governor General, yourself Mr Speaker, the Chief Justice, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, the Leader of the Independent Group, all Members of Parliament and our people throughout the country, a very Merry Christmas. I do hope that it will prepare us well for 2014. I would like to also convey to my good people of Gizo/Kolombangara, who have brought me into this House for the third term now where twice the margin is more than a thousand, merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I will still come back in the next House; East Choiseul and I will come back. You do not have to worry. It will not be good for our people if we do not come back to this House. With those, I wish all of you God's blessing and I want all of us to join in wishing our good people and our country a blessed festive season.

With those remarks, I beg to move.

## **MOTION OF SINE DIE**

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members, the question is that at the adjournment of Parliament today, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall then stand adjourned sine die. As Members are aware this is a traditional motion in the House, the sine die motion, which allows Members of Parliament to talk on a very broad range of issues so relax and debate. However, you are also reminded to observe the rules of debate and be mindful of the most important thing that all members would want to speak. Therefore, I cannot make the ruling, only three hours before we enter into the next day. The floor is now open for any Member of Parliament who wants to contribute to the motion moved by the Prime Minister.

**Mr MATTHEW WALE** (*Aoke/Langalanga*): Mr Speaker, this Christmas hymn: 'In the Town of Bethlehem' is what I want us to sing. It is tonight when the star went over the town of Bethlehem and so I want to read the text the Prime Minister touched on earlier. It is on that basis that I opposed his motion of sine die because there are a lot of good things that we should talk about, and it is not good for us to end sine die. But this evening, Doctor Luke recorded in Chapter 2 in the Gospels from verses 8

onwards that there were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. "Suddenly, a great army of heavenly angels appeared singing praises to God "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, we must quickly go to Bethlehem so that we can see what God has prophesied for us".

This is wrong time for us to be in Parliament because this is the time we should be with our families and reflect on the birth of Christ. But since we are here we cannot say much about it but as reflected on the **message of Christmas, God reduce to couple of inches and depend on his mother to breast feed him????**. As we reflect on this challenge that the Prime Minister has raised, we reflect in that spirit as we are all in one shape and so this eternal values help to inform the choices that we make. Sense of humour

When we think about ourselves or think about our re-election or our candidates, the choices that you make are bound to be not good for the country. But when you think about the eternal values or the choices we make are turned to be influenced by the eternal values, even at the worst of our of humanity and we think only about existential humanitarian values then we neglect those eternal values if we do not have Christian values and believes. Even when we at that human level just think on that and think about humanity and our togetherness and the need for us to be together, we will see or ought to see clearly that something are more important than others and are more strategic than others.

I want to start with reconciliation; I go on to encourage the Prime Minister and criticise, challenge or criticize him, in the spirit of the Boy born this evening. Make no further postponement or whatever excuses and lay the report as required by the Act before the Parliament in the spirit of the reconciler, the man born to us this evening, the God man. Then we longer slit, trivialised and no longer put down the plight of the victims of the conflict because we have to response to the policy or the budgetary and their implications. The issues and the plight of the victims must take precedence and that longer we postponed it, the mote slighting we do in terms of their stories.

At the policy level we turn to think about compensation and so it becomes an obstacle or an impediment but those who were victimised are also offenders and perpetrators who were became victims or were victims and become perpetrators. They all want official, formal state recognition of the suffering that we go through

and so they do not necessary want one compensation or claiming compensation, may be some do but others are not. Laying it before Parliament, allowing debate to happen gives the recognition that my suffering as an individual is recognised at the national level as part of the national journey, process, and has become part of the national history. Prime Minister, please in the spirit of the boy born to us, the Prince of peace, the great reconciler lay the report before Parliament. The spirit of Mandela persuades you not lay that Report. But I hope that Spirit of Yashua will persuade you. Do not hold back Prime Minister. We will not accuse you. We will not hold you to ransom. In fact nobody will accuse you; nobody will hold the government to ransom. We are in this boat together. We want responsible, matured, balance, sound, understanding and handling of this TRC Report. Two years of withholding this Report, Mr Prime Minister, is just simply unreasonable by all accounts. Simply unreasonable as it is illegal. And so Mr Prime Minister, I appeal to you in the Spirit of the man born to us to lay that Report before Parliament.

I also want to briefly touch on the land reform. And I could not agree more with the Prime Minister. Land reform to be able to empower our people must empower the tribes. And to be able to empower the tribes, land reform must make the tribal interest and right in land to be inalienable. We are familiar with alienation of land. We now have to go the other way and make sure that tribal land, land vested in tribes is inalienable. Inalienable even by its own members and even by its inalienable leaders, because much of the problems associated with alienated land way through colonial times until now is to do with the leaders of the tribes, the trustees who gave away perpetual estate. Where they never had in the first place, the tribe has it. But the system had conspired to give it to them at the expense of the tribe. This is why I do not understand why land reform has not taken a greater force in the thrust of government policy. Not only will it empower our tribes, and through it our people, but it will liberate our economy, because our people will no longer feel disenfranchised, side-lined, marginalised by economic development. Economic development will become empowering to them as well, and not disempowering. So Mr Speaker, with to the land reform, in 2014 the government must go all out and make it clear, lay the clear basis after the elections. So that whichever government comes in, must build on from where the current has left.

The challenges, contrasts, confusions, gaps that disconnects between the Land and Titles Act, which deals with about 20 percent of the land, the Land Recording Act, which ought to deal with a greater percentage of the land must be married. We should only have one legislation or regime of legislation and regulation. All land in this country is owned by tribes, not a piece of land is owned by the Queen, Crown or the State. We have live under the pretence that the state owns land in this country

and the longer we have advanced, enhanced, promoted and projected that pretence the longer has been the misery of our tribes and our people.

We take that and we say logs or trees standing on my land; you get access to it but the tree stands on my land. The argument has been advanced; minerals six feet or six meters down below and all that is an extension this principal that starts right at the beginning. If we accept that all land is own and held by tribes and not by individuals then the rest of our legislation giving recognition to that principal empowers the tribes.

This boy born to us this evening, yes, he came to divide but he also came to unite. He came to divide because he clearly stated that if you want to follow him do so and if you choose against him then you are not his. But he came to unite because he brought salvation because you can choose that salvation.

We have kept the matter of land reform far too long on the margins, we have keep it too long as an afterthought, we keep it too long as not as important or perhaps we keep it far too long in that two hard basket. So we have paid the price. Do you know what the price is? High tax, and there are many shops and logging on the foreign investment application that we have received. This is because land is not liberated because our people do not feel secure because the tribes are not recognised. I do not want to talk much on this but I am happy that the Prime Minister has raised this and it is something that all of us have engaged in but more work needs to be done and a white paper brought to this House; let us engage on that matter and that matter alone for an extended period of time. Let us really exhaustively deal with it and find common ground as to how we are going to move forward because not a single one of us has the right answer so we must all engage it in after a much broader and wider consultation with our people because land is so foundational fundamental to our being as members of tribes.

I mentioned this during debates on the budget, and the Prime Minister has rightly touched it and which I would like to touch a bit on it again. Our taxes are too high but for us to really reform our taxation system so that we are not one of the most expensive investment destination do business but that also we have the prerequisites to be able to be the most attractive investment destination in whole region. Currently, compared to Fiji and Vanuatu we are too far, getting a business up and running in this country is 12times more expensive than doing it in Fiji and 7times more expensive than doing it in Vanuatu. You may ask, Mr Speaker, why Fiji and Vanuatu compared to us have nothing to offer in tourism. Vanuatu may be 10, 15 percent of what we have to offer. Fiji may be half of what we offer. You go to Nuhu in West Guadalcanal, it is very beautiful, you go to Suva, it is very beautiful. If

you go to Russell Islands or Small Malaita, it is very beautiful. Why don't we have investors there? If you go to Tingoa, you will see the lake. It is a very nice place. We have the biggest fresh water lake in Tingoa. The biggest lagoon in the world is in Marovo. The heritage on Guadalcanal in terms of the Second World War. And you can go on and on. The beauty of the people. The easy going attitude of the people and the diversity of the culture, the rainbow nation that we have. All these are assets, assets we do not want to even realise. You know what makes it difficult? It is our taxation system. It is the truth because we made it very difficult for the corporate sizeable investors that wants to come.

It is easy for the wrong people to come here because they can make a quick buck. Rather we want those who will be here for the long term, however we made it very difficult for them. Why? Because we are desperate for that revenue to fund the expenditure, some of which is not quality expenditure.

Mr Speaker, let us rise in the spirit of the boy born to us this evening. and say, let us raise our eyes and our vision to the long term and pay some sacrifices in the short term. It is very important and let us count the cost.

You know, I have previously read the text in Luke 14, about the person who starts to make his house. He laid the foundation, and then he ran out of money. Then people that walked by said, this person start to work on that house, but he cannot complete it. The meaning that Jesus was putting across is that, you should think about what you will do and calculate the cost. Let us count the cost. I want to tell you all, our people have fought over salt fish, sell betel nut along the road side. Some people wake up every morning walked from White River to Lunga asking for money. This is the truth. Some of our people are at the Ranadi Dump Site. They make an existence scavenging out of the rubbish dump. I do not think anyone of us here would want to condemn our people to that kind of existence. However, necessary it is from environmental point of view to recycle our garbage and so forth. But there must be better public policy responses to that situation. Not forced out of necessity to forge an existence at the tip of the Ranadi Dump Site.

Mr Speaker, in the spirit of the boy born to us today, we must open our hearts to our people. Our people who forged an existence, who put bread on their tables at the Ranadi Dump Site. Our people who are forced out of sheer necessity, no jobs around. The economy is not creating enough jobs. They must walk up and down begging. In a country of plenty, nobody should beg, yet people are begging in our midst. Does that touch our hearts, or does it not?

Sir, our children in schools, they enter the education system with dreams in their hearts. The father would ask their daughter, what they want to become when they

grow older, the daughter will reply saying that she wants to become a pilot or a doctor or whatever. And that young girl went to school, but the teachers are absent. Her dream started to be shortened there. When she gets to Form 1, a myriad of other issues in our educational system. Not to mention, the pressure that comes in relation to school fees and all the additional stresses and pressures and burdens with funding of our education system. And so the financing of our education system seems to me to be a great liberator. So that education can truly become a great equaliser. Whether one is born to privileged family, or one is born to a less privileged family, family has the potential to equalise the opportunities that our children will have access to. We cannot in fairness and on balance say, that all our children have equal opportunities in this country. So we address this and we take the generational view and we start now. This is very, very important.

Sir, I am thinking about education. I have encouraged one of my sons all the time to go to university. Then he said, I have only one interest, I want to become a welder. And I think a lot of parents want their kids to go the highest possible education level they can. Sometimes it almost over run against their own wishes and their own interests in life. So we may all want our kids to go to university, but children have other interests. And the bulk of that interest falls consistent with the bulk of the need in society in the economy. And that is in the trades.

In the field of education, I want to caution the Government and not to neglect the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and I said so because it is not in the recurrent budget, development budget and budget support. As a result TVET has been clearly neglected in every sectors of education. It is understandable that for 2013, 2014 and 2015, because we move to have SINU and the focus of this particular government and their trust of their education policy has been for the University education. But the bulk of the society or the bulk of the economy is served by the trades and will continue to be so for the next 20 to 30 years and so we must think carefully about this and do not neglect or slight or overlook our rural training centres and technical vocational institutions and adequately resource them.

Although that is the not the case already in the budget that we just passed but I want to encourage the government to look into this issue seriously.

Moreover, the number one resource of the country is people and even if we have gold, oil, copra, cocoa and everything but such things will be good if they serve our people to live a life with dignity. Because people are the number one resources; the strategic resource in it's leadership. We can have copra, cocoa, oil, copper and others more but we do not get the leadership right those resources would be a curse for us. We would squander the wealth that would come from it and so why this area is so critical in the electoral reform? But the soliciting or the empowering of the electorate or the populace and the soliciting of their mandate and the election of leadership

must be to one goal and one object and that is to get the best leadership for the country.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs just tell me earlier on, when we go around the world we come across many Doctors, Masters and PhDs and they are easy to make things. But for us, even when the cat walks in front of us we will not recognise it and we turn to look down on ourselves. The system conspires to make sure we never will have the best leadership talent in this House. It conspire against that. What is the right response? Reform the system to make sure that the country is served by the best leadership talent available. We must do it. It is a very urgent and desperate need to reform this matter. We are running out of time. The government is running out of time. But the basis must be laid, so that the next House will not pass this opportunity to get this one right. We get this right, we will reap the benefits. Just look at the region. Look at Samoa, for an example, they are coming up. They have made some tough reforms some thirty years ago and are now yielding fruit in that country. Look at Fiji, after the independence with Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, even now with Commodore Bainimarama and the reforms he is trying to bring in. We may disagree with him or I may disagree with him that the means never justify the ends. So a coup and dictatorship and so forth are not the means in a modern society. However, Mr Speaker, we must take our hats off to him in terms of his desire to see that his society and his country, and the democracy that will born out of the election that will happen next year in Fiji. To give that country not only legitimacy in leadership, but also integrity, credibility competence and capacity. And so it is very important for us to reflect what he has done in Fiji.

Sir, we must also reflect on Papua New Guinea, our big brother. We see in that reflection, the challenges that they face are much, much bigger, almost perhaps ten or may be even more than ten times the size of this country by population. And perhaps even more by complexity and diversity. The challenges that they face and in the sphere of leadership, and that reflection ought to encourage us, ought to point us in the direction of ensuring that our leadership selection processes solicit the best in terms of people representation and voice in this House.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister mention anything about the women. But he did not forget because he is a person who thinks strongly about women. The plight of women in our society is getting worse. You see the Member for West Kwaio; the Minister for Women always told us that the violence against women is getting worse, not better. The issue of representation for the women. The more they talked about, the more oppressed they become. Those women quite opened my eye because they ask me to look on the last three pieces of legislation that we have passed in this House. And they told me to look on the gender sensitivity and think of women. In this House the majority are men with only one women. So when it comes to any legislation or any policy making we think that it is right and that it applies to

everyone. But these women have opened my eyes that some things have prejudicial without us realising it by default it makes the position of women, it is like naturally by nature inferior or by nature it is secondary or second class.

This issue of representation is much, much bigger than what we have thought of. This issue is much bigger because it is linked to the advancement of our society, a society that is perhaps reluctant to take that step. So it takes leadership to say to the society that this is good medicine for you, we will provide leadership to you to take what is good for you. We are not dictating them but we are providing leadership to them. They may reject it and it is well within their rights to do so but it is incumbent upon us as leaders to provide that leadership. We lead, we do not follow; yes, it is right to hear what the people say. Yes, it is right to pay attention to what the people say. Yes, it is right to be sensitive to where society is at or where people are at but we have been chosen, to lead and leading by following is not leadership. This issue of representation and the plight of women is one of those issues that call for leadership and we must think heavy on this.

Sir, I would also like to touch briefly on development in indigenous business and employment for our people. This has really created pain in my heart because we continue to speak about it but the problem continues to increase. I have asked this question to the Committee to the Minister of immigration and labour just yesterday on people who come to operate bulldozers in the country. But today when I am outside someone told me that some foreigners who come in the country do not even know how to operate bulldozers they came here before they learn how to operate those machines.

So they are lying in their applications and we are not making any due diligence on those processes. So those people come to do jobs which our people here can do. They are out of jobs and you know why they are out of a job because they insist on a minimum wage. You know why they are out of a job, because they insist on collective agreements to protect their labour rights. You know why they are out of jobs? Not because they want Heaven to come down. They are asking for the basic minimum of recognition, remuneration, and reward for their labour. And so some the employers prefer people who will come and do not ask more questions, do not complain and say all sort of things even when they are abused. If they complain, they will remove their work permit and deport them. It works both ways. But we must stump it out. How many years are we to talk about this? I remember we have talked about this in the last Parliament. But we did not take steps to protect our people. In sphere of businesses, we open everything for foreign investment. And it is right that we did and that we do. But we did so at the expense of our people. Our

people can cook fish and chips, and operate bus and taxi services or second hand clothing shop. Our people can operate a second hand clothing shop.

Mr Speaker, are we really that bad because we forget our people? Are we really that bad that we did not think about the plight of our people to come up in businesses? Our economy is controlled by people who are not our indigenous people. I am not trying to create a situation where Solomon Islanders not of indigenous origins are second class. But I am saying, any society where its indigenous people are not economically empowered, that society will always live with the risk that indigenous people will rise up against the status quo. We have seen in other societies where indigenous population are minority. How much more in our situation where the indigenous is the majority. The indigenous people of this country make up more than 90 percent of the total population. Yet more than 90 percent of this economy is controlled by people who are indigenous. I am not saying by any stretch of the imagination that indigenous people must control 90 percent, I am not saying that. What I am saying, however, is that our own people, our own indigenous people must not be marginalised, disenfranchised and disempowered in business and in the economy. This is an area that calls for leadership. This is an area that calls for proactive leadership. This is an area that calls for visionary leadership. And this is an area that calls for affirmative policy and affirmative action. No one will be against the government or against anyone to say that, we favour our indigenous people. Everyone will recognise that we need to favour our people.

Mr Speaker, this Foreign Investment Act is legislated on the basis of a level playing field and to create a level playing field. For example, a person from China, I do not want to be racist. I am just using this as an example. For the last 5000 years, they know how to do carry out businesses; they have access to their networks and other things, and have access to credit and cash. So when they apply for foreign investment and get the approval to set up a shop. How can that be level playing field with a person from East Kwaio who wants to set up a shop or a person from Tikopia, or a person from small Malaita or West Are'Are, where we have never huge amount of money for a very long time. And when we handle a huge amount of money, we cannot handle ourselves. We just forget about all the important things that we want to do as soon as the money lands in our hands. This is reality. You go to the Bank, the person at the Bank tells you to go and wait outside. What sort of level playing field are we talking about? Our people are not on the level playing field. If we are in one hundred metres, those people have already reached the eighty metres mark before we started. When we want to start, they will just tie our legs. Those of us in this Parliament are the ones who passed those things, and the government will

implement and manage the reservation lists. Affirmative is not big thing, it is not illegal. The Constitution provides for this. It has been successfully done in other parts of the world. Why are we not doing it? I want to encourage the government to seriously look into this. Do not worry about the coming elections, do it now. Strengthen and empower our people. Unfortunately there is nothing in the budget for it. But we should look for some other ways to empower them. There is of course, SMEs and the schemes at the Central Bank and the rest of it. But those schemes do not work properly to empower our people because there is no level playing field.

Now we talk about level playing field for our indigenous people in business, we must be going the other way. We make the playing field level for people that come from other civilisations who have handled business and money for a very long time. And in that process, we made it unlevelled for our own people. Now we have to go the other way and raise the bar from our people, so that they can meaningfully participate in the economy. That is why even if a person owns a big land with a lot of trees, that person is in any position or that tribe is not in any position to sustain itself to be the boss. His tribe to exploit those resources and sustainability benefit from those going into the future, and improve their standard of living. You know what he will do? He will look for people from outside to come and do it for him. Then those people from outside will take all the things. Then the parable that I read about Lazarus will kick in. He will get some money, but when he cannot handle the huge money, he will drink it all up, and he will end up like Lazarus, eating crumbs that fall from the tables. This will continue to be the plight of our own indigenous people if we are not careful. And the way we are going just shows that we are not careful. The way we are going, we are not looking seriously at this. We think that all good things for the economy must come from outside. It is true, but our people must be empowered.

Sir, it is now going to 10:00PM, around this time in Bethlehem, the star started in Persia (Iran) and go towards Bethlehem. When it was going towards Bethlehem, the three wise men also followed. I wonder what our star is. The star that leads to Bethlehem. I wonder what values lead us? The star that leads us to the Prince of peace, to the son of God and to God himself or Star that leads us to the salvation of the World and lamb of God that takes away the sin of the World and so I wonder which star is leading us. Are we going to Bethlehem or we are going to Egypt and so it will be good if we reflect on this one? This is no accusation of anybody as we reflect on this time on our values that influence our choices.

I find that in my own self, the humanity in me, and the vanity in me, the pride in me, the arrogant in me, the deceit in me, the vain conceit in me and all manner of malice

and evil in me, the things I hate yet I do seem to have the ascendancy in Politics. And as we reflect at this time on the child that is born to us this evening, I personally think that those things that impede me or that stop me and that are an obstacle to finding my authenticity, my true being as God wanted me to be so that I can be a true servant in my role as a leader of my people and the country.

Those things that impede me also impede that leadership role and my being of servant which have a direct impact on the direction that the Country is taking because of our decisions. That is, the budgetary decisions that we take, the resource allocations that we make and other important strategic policy decisions that we take, come from a number of factors or forces or pressures that impact. And so the resulting direction might not be a straight forward direction but some bend somewhere because it depends on the powers of those pressures. Hence, we also reflect on the child of Bethlehem and so us oath to think about that especially on how that impacts our lives and on the choices that we make.

Furthermore, I want to appreciate the comments made by the Prime Minister about the land based resources, especially minerals and our communality in our resource ownership as it is one of the sticky issue in our midst. There are those who say that tribe owns the land and everything on it and the State has no business in it and they are right to say that we well. The Prime Minister said we are one under one country and our togetherness must mean something. Besides, the child of Bethlehem informs that debate and I appreciate what the Prime Minister said about this matter. Even if we were to reflect only on an existentialist argument for the State, we would have to grant a State that is weak. And we know what it is to have a weak State, is unable to enforce its will, and therefore, will never have a national vision that will have any force to drive a country in any one direction. This is a matter for reflection. We have a position in the law at the moment, but this debate is continuing. It is part of the Federal State debate. But it is healthy that we continue to talk about it.

Mr Speaker, in the face of climate change, the sea level rises. If we think back thousands of years back, we were all Africans in the Garden of Eden. This is the truth. You might know the Ku Klux Klan in the United States who said that only the white people are human beings and everyone else are animals. I have not met them. But if I meet them, I will tell them that they also started in Africa in the Garden of Eden. When we started there were no boundaries. There were no boundaries between Africa and Europe, and certainly there are no boundaries between Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. But as the world increasingly gets globalised, we appreciate the global challenges facing us. We then recognise we are one village, one global village and that these borders are human pretences that create a lot of problems. So we think within our context, one person says he owns a particular land and everything in it belongs to him. He will want to share even one percent of it with others. He does not recognise that the rest of us need the oxygen produced by the trees standing on that tree. We need the forest to remain there, so

that they properly processed the carbon dioxide back into the air. That what he does on his piece of land impacts on the rest of us. This is perhaps a concept alien to us. We think we own a piece land and rivers down to the sea. So it is like a sovereign territory, but only God is sovereign. What you do in your particular plot affects everybody. Not only around you, but everybody else in the world. And so we all have responsibility, we all have a duty of care. We have a duty of care and responsibility to the rest of the world. But how much more to our own kin living right next to us? How much more to own people living in our provinces and how much more to our own people living in our own country? And this child born to us this evening says at basic minimum, do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is appealing to a basic minimum in our own humanity. Of course, he set the highest standard: love your enemies, bless those who curse you. This child born to us this evening. But the man next door to you is not your enemy. The man in the rest of the province and the man in rest of the country is not your enemy. So this concept which the Prime Minister has touched on a bit today is one important one. I am afraid to say that perhaps the significant part of the debate on federalism and statism has been driven by turf mindedness, boundary mindedness and narrow mindedness. I am not saying this because I come from Malaita province; I am saying this as a national leader.

In 50 or 100 years time we will have a Solomon Islands where its mix might be unknown. We might not know how much of it is Guadalcanal, Malaita, Isabel, Western province, Tikopia and this and that. We cannot lay the basis for a future society on the foundation of tough mindedness, on the foundation of boundaries, on the foundation of constraints based on our fears. The future of our society must be laid on openness on inclusivity, on an all embarrassing spirit on a big heart to the heart of the one born to us this evening that you are part of me and I am part of you. That does not call for disrespect, it calls for respect. That does not call for you to come and takeover whatever is in me. That is the future of the Solomon Islands society that we must lay. That is the foundation of Solomon Island society that we must learn from, that is the fabric of the society that we must lay. It is irresponsible to speak of any other foundation unless people really believe that Solomon Islands should split up and the various provinces become independent sovereign nations. If you do that we in Malaita those from Kwara'ae, Toabaita, and we from Langalanga will be different, so where do you stop?

Our tough mindedness is not the answer this country is looking for, it is in being together that we enrich each other and strengthen each other so that we could look forward with hope that we have the capacity and strength and the will to

become a people of note and people that would give happiness to each other in a society that is cohesive. It is the role of leadership to not only articulate this vision but to leave it. To give it through manifestation in the dealings at the national level in resources allocation, decisions in legislation and certainly in debate and policy and public statements.

I fear Mr Speaker on this point that are last, some public statement that have come in the recent past have been to fuel the debate in the direction of turf mindedness; in separatism, sectarianism in boundary and turf minded mentality. I cannot see how that could be born out of the spirit of the babe born to us this evening. The baby for the world, the baby who is the salvation of the world.

Sir, this thinking has affected land reforms, education, taxation, how the wealth or the revenue generated from taxation is redistributed, and has affected a lot of what we do in government. But beyond that, it also affects other decisions made by other key players in our society, beyond government. And so it is important that we talk about it within responsible sound, balance and matured boundaries, but also giving it leadership to ensure that people are clear about the kind of direction we think as a leadership combine together, the country ought to take.

Mr Speaker, I just want to touch briefly on the role of the churches inside our society. And I am very happy that the Deputy Prime Minister, my dear brother who has made that the government continues to assist the churches. We all know when there was still no government in our islands, church was already there. When we were still killing and eating each other, the church had already come. When we were still with malaria, and said that it is the devil that is killing us, the church came and gave us medicine. Then the church started schools. The government had only one school in those days, the churches had all the other schools. And so the churches have continued their leadership, constructive role in building not only our nation, but our society in the face of great challenges and resource constraints and capacity limitations. They never complain, they just continue to do the work.

Mr Speaker, when we have misunderstandings in our midst, and ended up in a civil war between ourselves. The government, police and the institutions of State broke down, it was the churches that hold us together and helped us to talk. Mr Speaker, you were at the forefront of this situation at that time, and you understand. And so we asked ourselves during that time, and you at that time, it is a recurring thing to you. What kind of a citizen are we looking to build, to groom in a Solomon Islands society? What sort of values do we want that citizen to have? And as we reflected and explored on that citizen we want to see in a Solomon Islands society, we

recognised that that citizen and the characteristics they have are the characteristics of the child born to us this evening.

The characteristics of 'turn the other cheek', the characteristics of 'forgive seven times seven', the characteristics of the Good Samaritan and you can name it, and you can list them. How do we get that citizen? It is the role of government to inculcate or provide the environment so that those characteristics can be seen by the citizens in their lives. But it is the place and the role of the churches to work and to grow those characteristics in this citizen. That is why it is the role of government to support the churches in education, health and even in the spiritual development without taking over the function of the churches. Because it is in the spiritual development that we are convicted of our sin, that we are led to repentance and that we are led through a process of restitution and restoration and rehabilitation into newness of life, the life of the child born to us this evening. How can therefore, we say that the State must be divorced from the church? We recognised that you must give unto Cesar what belongs to Cesar, and unto God what belongs to God. But this verse has been taken out of context, and has seemed to overreach its original meaning.

Of course the church must not take over government. We have seen that in medieval times. Bad things were done in the name of the State by the church. Nor must the State take over the church. Likewise we have seen what Hitler was able to do in Germany when that was the case. There must be a mutual respect, clear boundaries and co-existence. But the two must support each other, because we need the kind of Solomon Islander that turns the other cheek. We need the kind of Solomon Islander who serves, who wants to serve. We need the Solomon Islander who is the Good Samaritan. We need the Solomon Islander who will forgive seven times seven. We need the kind of Solomon Islander that adopts the attitude of Christ. So as we reflect on this child born to us this evening, we should have this thinking that He does not just affect our thinking as individuals in our own lives, and perhaps in our own families, it affects our policy making and policy choices. Perhaps some policy choices, resources allocation and budgetary choices are influenced by my re-election next year. And that may be perfectly alright, and that may be right. But perhaps it may not be right and it may not be the best either. But let us reflect because the choices we make have a direct influence and impact on the kind of society we want to see in Solomon Islands going into the long term.

Mr Speaker, I was listening to our debates, and the questions that we asked and answer at the Committee stage. We all know that we are in one canoe, we are paddling the canoe. But we are not sure we want to paddle in the same direction because we are not sure about the destination. I do not think anyone of us here really

know what destination we are really paddling the canoe towards. And so some paddle in one direction and others paddle in the other, making us end up in a different direction. But it is good that we have a dialogue, conversation about the destination that we want to go to. And that destination is not having high rise buildings in Honiara, Auki, Gizo, Buala, Lata, Kirakira, Tulagi, Tingoa or Taro Island. It is not about having jets landing and all the paraphernalia of development. That destination must be about what kind of a society we want to see in these lovely islands. And how can we talk about that kind of society without seeing what kind of people do we want to see in these lovely islands. A people who do not beg for the basics of life. A people who do not keep their hand out and line up outside for the RCDF. A people working productively to earn their own living and put food on their table honestly. And take pride and dignity in being able to do so. A people proud in their own identity, yet humble enough to serve all others. That is the kind of society we want. And that kind of society, that kind of people is a people confident in their own identity, culture and heritage. And a people with hope for the future and with hope in their leadership in leading them to that future.

Sir, I have gone on for much longer than I had thought. But I am very happy at this Christmas Eve that we can reflect on these values. We reflect on the baby born in Bethlehem and what that baby represents. And in doing so, we reflect on the star of Bethlehem. What star is leading us and leading to where destination. What are the values represented in that star that informs our choices. The three wise men from the East could have seen that star and go on another road, but they did not. They made some choices in the roads where they have picked to go on.

Merry Christmas to you, Mr Speaker. It has been a long and hard year. Much has happened during the year. Personally of course, you have suspended me, but I have forgiven you a long time ago. And that of course is the spirit of the man born to us this evening. Sir, you have done a tough job, this is a tough place to try and adjudicate and guide. And you have been tasked with that responsibility. A responsibility you have discharged well throughout the year. I wish you and your family well, that you enjoy the Christmas and you continue to have shalom, and so to the Clerk and the staff. And of course to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his wife and children, and to the Deputy Prime Minister, my dear brother and his family, and to my dear brother the Finance Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, Agriculture Minister and all the other Ministers. And of course to the good people of Aoke/Langalanga. And tonight the people of Aoke/Langalanga are baking their fish as they reflect on this baby born to us. And I have had the privilege this past three years to represent them, to speak on their behalf and to serve them. I am certainly

not their master and lord, but their servant. I think in our electoral reforms, we must reflect on this, that our people deserve a whole lot better from us, our leaders. But sometimes beyond ourselves, in spite of ourselves, our system conspires against us to provide that level of leadership. Perhaps the level of engagement that we could otherwise have with our people.

Mr Speaker, this Christmas as I reflect and think of the year gone by. It is true; God reduced to a few inches, God the Almighty placing Himself at the bosom of His mother, God the Almighty reduce to the womb of a woman, God the Almighty coming to earth through the birth canal with all the challenges that we know maternal births present. God taking all these risks and of course the greatest of them all, dying my death on a tree cursed. This makes me to think about what has made me to mess my life with all sorts of things and some of the choices that I have made. I think I am wasting my time and life. And it is because my star of Bethlehem, perhaps have gone down paths and roads that are not the paths that are informed by eternal values.

Mr Speaker, I want to end there with encouragement to all of us. Merry Christmas .

**Mr Speaker:** If the Prime Minister is around, he can wind up this motion. We cannot go on to 11 o'clock. I will close this meeting because the Parliament gives me the power. I will ask the Prime Minister to wind up this motion.

**Hon Gordon Darcy Lilo** (*Prime Minister*): Thank you Mr Speaker. I really want to thank the Member for Aoke/Langalanga for joining me in sharing some of the very important views; he has already gone but it is alright. But Sir, with the remarks that have been made I feel that everyone should be allowed now to go and make preparation to attend to the various activities that are being planned for tonight. And with that I would really want to thank the Member of Parliament for Aoke Langalanga for sharing some of the views that I am sure that have been shared by all of us.

But for now I would like all of us to go back and then think more positively about the day today and the child that has been born to us which demonstrate God's plan for salvation in humanity. With those remarks I beg to move that at the adjournment of Parliament today, Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the present meeting shall be concluded and Parliament shall stand Adjourn Sine Dine.

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members that concludes the business for today. In concluding this business for today, this meeting, however, I before I adjourn Parliament. Please allow me to say a few words. Since this is the final sitting of Parliament in 2013, allow me to briefly make a short remark from my observation of our commitments to the business of the House in 2013. I wish all of you well for the Christmas and New Year 2014.

This year has been marked with improvements to your commitment to the businesses of the House. The parliamentary committees have also done their work extremely well. Thirteen (13) Bills were brought this year, 10 were passed and three were withdrawn. The following Bills have been enacted in 2013: the Constituency Development Fund Bill, Police Bill, Biosecurity Bill, National Parliament Electoral Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2012 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Royal Styles and Titles Bill, Public Financial Management Bill, Financial Institution (Amendment) Bill, 2013 Supplementary Appropriation, and 2014 Appropriation Bill.

Honourable Members, I must thank and congratulate all of you. You have contributed to the debates in Parliament. Your involvement in decision making, whether or not to pass the Bill. Your engagement in questions and answers, the citizens are informed of developments in our country and the management of public finances. Your participation in the detail scrutiny of the laws of our country in the Committee of the Whole House and Parliamentary Committee, and representing our people or your people in the Constituencies in presenting their voice in this Chamber. Thank you for cooperation and active involvement in the Business of the House, and for performing and fulfilment of Constitutional duties in the legislature. On many occasions, Parliament went beyond 4:30 PM tonight. To deliberate on the Business, Members are reminded to be patient and engage in the work until the end of the sitting day. These experiences shows your commitment and desire to make quality laws, and I quote – "...the proper scrutiny of all laws passed by Parliament." The Parliamentary Committees have done exceptionally well in the scrutiny of the Bills, and at the same time manage inquiries such as the Inquiry into the Teachers' Absenteeism, and Inquiry into the Honiara Short Bus Routes, the Public Accounts hearing into the Appropriation Bills. These are huge inquiries often required of a Member who sat in these Committees. It is a huge responsibility for the Members. I must congratulate you for that. During the Parliamentary recesses, the Committees have continued to work, scrutinising the Bills and inquiry into the issues important to our citizens and our nation. Thank you Honourable Members who are serving in Committees. I applaud you for that, and I thank you for your dedication and commitment. Additionally the Committee quorum is sometimes an issue. However,

your patience and tolerance to transact the business effectively on the issue of quorum is very much appreciated.

Much would not have been done without the support of the staff of National Parliament. I thank the Clerk of Parliament and your team, the staff for the excellent support rendered to Parliament and the work of the Members of Parliament. You have done exceptionally well the work and commitments shown by the Committee Secretariat, the Hansard, the ICT Team, the Media Department, the Procedure Office, and all departments deserve a thank you and appreciation. Thank you for enduring, even up to the Christmas Eve which is now. The sacrifices and sleepless nights for the Committee Secretariat and the Hansard Team, who seen this high quality reports that have been produced for all Members of Parliament. Members, I thank you once again for your cooperation this year, and for displaying respect at all times in conducting of Parliament Businesses in the Chamber and outside, as well as the service in the Committees you have been appointed to.

I wish the Honourable Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Independent Group, Government Backbenchers, the Opposition Bench, Independent Group a Merry Christmas and a wonderful Christmas celebration with your families and constituents. May the Sovereign God, the ruler of the universe bring you joy, peace, progress and prosperity to this nation for 2014.

Honourable Members, in pursuant of Standing Order 10(5), Parliament is now adjourn, and in accordance with the earlier resolution of the House of the Fifth Meeting of this Parliament is now concluded and Parliament now stands adjourned sine die.

*The House adjourned sine die at ..*