ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017
1 - 8 JUNE 2017

ONZIEME LEGISLATURE
PREMIERE SESSION ORDINAIRE DE 2017
1 – 8 JUIN 2017

SUMMARISED PROCEEDINGS
PROCES-VERBAUX
CERTIFICATION

The Minutes of Proceedings, which appear in the following book have been established by the Clerk of Parliament, have been amended and confirmed by Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Order 18 of Parliament.

Hon. Simeon SEOUKE
Speaker of Parliament

Raymond MANUAKE
Clerk of Parliament
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017

1 June 2017

Speaker of Parliament

His Excellency, Hon. Esmon SAIMON

Parliament Office-Holders

First Deputy Speaker – Hon. Edwin Amblus MACREVETH
Second Deputy Speaker – Hon. Toara Daniel KALO
Third Deputy Speaker – Hon. Jerry KANAS
Fourth Deputy Speaker – Hon. Marcellino BARTHELEMY

Leader of the Government in the Parliament – Hon. Charlot SALWAI Tabimasmas
Leader of the Opposition – Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau
Deputy Leader of the Opposition – Hon. Don Ken NMALAMUWOMU
Leader of Government Business – Hon. Gillion WILLIAM
Government Whip – Hon. – Bob LOUGHMAN
Opposition Whip – Hon. – Christopher EMELEE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
(These Ministers constitute the Cabinet and were in office on 1 June 2017)

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Service
Hon. Charlot SALWAI Tabimasmas

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Industry and Commerce
Hon. Joe NATUMAN

Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
Hon. Jotham NAPAT

Minister of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Telecommunication
Hon. Bruno LENGKON

Minister of Internal Affairs
Hon. Alfred MAOH

Minister of Finance and Economic Management
Hon. Gaetan PIKIOUNE

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Hon. Matai SEREMAIAH

Minister of Health
Hon. Jerome LUDVAUNE

Minister of Education
Hon. Jean Pierre NIRUA

Minister of Lands, Geology and Mines and Water Resources
Hon. Ralph REGENVANU

Minister of Justice and Social Welfare
Hon. Ronald Warsal KALMASEI

Minister of Youth and Sports
Hon. Simeon SEOULE

Minister of Climate Changes
Hon. Ham LINI Vanuaroroa.
# ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF PARLIAMENT

## FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017

1 June 2017

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017

THURSDAY 01 JUNE 2017

SPEAKER : The Hon. Esmon SAIMON, Member for Maleukla

PRESENT : 50 Members

ABSENT : The Hon. Jerome LUDVAUNE, Member for Malekula
The Hon. Matai SEREMAIAH, Member for Luganville

1. The sitting commenced at 9.00a.m.

2. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON stated that in accordance with Article 21(4) of the Constitution that, two thirds of the Members should be present at the first sitting of any session. Since there was a quorum of 49 Members present, it rendered the sitting to be legally to proceed with the agenda it was summoned to be dealt with. He then said the prayer then announced the favorable response of His Excellency Baldwin LONSDALE, President of the Republic of Vanuatu, at the request of the official opening of the First Ordinary Session of 2017. He then announced the inspection of the Guard of Honor.

3. The sitting was suspended at 9.10a.m and resumed at 9.40a.m.

4. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON said he was honored and privileged to invite His Excellency President LONSDALE to deliver his Presidential address.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

5. His Excellency, President Baldwin LONSDALE, gave his opening address then announced the Bills to be debated. He then officially declared the Second Ordinary Session of 2017 open. (See Appendix – I)

6. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON thanked His Excellency, President LONSDALE for his address and then invited all Members of the House as well as the Diplomatic Corps to join him and the President for refreshment.

7. The sitting was suspended at 10.25a.m and resumed at 11.15a.m
The Hon. Charlot SALWAI, Prime Minister and Member for Pentecost, gave his response to the speech of His Excellency, President Baldwin LONSDALE. (See Appendix – II)

The sitting was suspended at 11.45 am then resumed at 2.20 p.m.

The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila, said Members of Parliament are required to adhere to laws that the Parliament Administration Act outlined in the First Ordinary Session to commence in March. He congratulated the Vanuatu under 20 Soccer Team on their performance but felt it was disrespectful for a State Minister not to welcome the heroes at the airport. He pointed out that increased crime is a failure of our education system and that must be entrenched in our law for children up to 16 years of ages must be in school. He praised the government on the free education policy up to Year 10; he said that there must also be a pathway set for them after Year 10. Moreover, he said it was the first time for a President to address the issue of corruption in the Parliament as practiced by both the government and statutory bodies. He added that the government must address the issue and ensure that action was taken to eliminate all its elements, such as the case with the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF). Furthermore, he wondered if we were ready to host the 2017 Pacific Mini Games, thus, thanked the Chinese government for constructing the Sports Complex, however, it lacks financial reporting. He felt that the government must be vigilant in addressing corruption and wanted to know the outcome of the Police symposium last year in attacking corruption. He continued on the unemployment and poverty are not issues in Vanuatu. He said the government must be responsible and not depend on private sectors. He thanked the government for its negotiations for help from other countries. He said the government must reconsider its laws and actions and not destroy the people’s right and opportunities for employment. He felt that the Land Act would destroy the people. He added that the Commissioner of Labor and its staffs must understand that the Recognized Seasonal Employment (RSE) is only an aspect of employment. However, the country has more qualified students trained to help the country. He pointed out that police wage is the main contributing factor in their performance and the government must appoint a new Commissioner. He said the government must build its budget to recruit yearly, meanwhile, praised the government on GRT’s task saying it must be done immediately for the Police to perform. He said that some public members confronted a Member of Parliament due to the misconception that MPs do not have immunity; however, the government must protect status of MPs. Finally, he felt that more funds should be allotted to the Office of the Auditor General to deal with corruption issues. He concluded that the country must provide reports to the donors who helped during the cyclone Pam disaster.

The Hon. Speaker SAIMON read the agenda of the day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Firstly, The Parliament will receive the third Deputy Speaker of the Congress of New Caledonia on Monday 5th June in the morning for the handing over ceremony of equipment to the Parliament. Secondly, the Asia Pacific Group would do a briefing in the afternoon regarding Money laundering appearing in the First Ordinary Session.
12. The Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate requested the sitting to adjourn to Monday to allow Members to read their bills.

13. The sitting was adjourned at 3 p.m.
1. The sitting commenced at 9.10a.m.

2. The Hon. Toara Daniel KALO, Member for Shepherds Outer Islands, said the prayer.

3. The Hon. Speaker Esmon SAIMON began by acknowledging the presence of the Third Deputy Speaker of the Congress of New Caledonia, Hon. Yoann LECOURIEUX and his delegation in the House. He announced that they have come to donate equipment according to the agreement signed between the Congress of New Caledonia and the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu. He then read the agenda and invited the House to witness the handing over ceremony.

4. The sitting was suspended at 9.20a.m then resumed at 10.20a.m.

**BILL FOR THE LAND REFORM (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017**

FIRST READING

5. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands and Member for Port Vila, introduced the Bill, stated the reasons for the amendments and then moved that the Bill be read a first time.

6. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila, said that while the Bill seemed simple, in reality, it was rather broad. He added that the ideas put together in this Bill implied the intention of removing customary land from custom land owners so that they do not use their properties as guarantee. He added that this Bill further gives power to investors to develop custom land, in the case, where cost of development is unaffordable for locals and where the Government allowed itself to withdraw it. He noted that no monetary value had been included in the Bill, in fact, he informed Parliament that there are about 163 negotiators who are still waiting for their
land leases, despite having received their negotiator certificates. He said this was the failure of the Custom Land Management Act. He also mentioned the quarry application made by the Chinese Company CCECC, who removed the authority from locals, and given to foreigners and pointed out that, the Government is introducing Laws that enable it to remove ownership from customary landowners without their consent. He said he noted a decrease in the Department’s revenue as the years went by. For roads going through subdivided land, he urged the Government to avoid putting its responsibilities on the shoulders of its people. He asked, concerning the Malarua quarry, that the Government respected the Customary Land Owners and quit proceeding with the process of acquisition. He suggested that the Land Management Act be reviewed instead of introducing this Bill, and asked the House to vote for the protection of customary land. He announced that the Opposition would vote against the Bill.

7. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, thanked the Minister for the introduction of the Bill and declared his disagreement with it. He warned the House that the Government’s intention through this Bill aimed at removing the rights of customary landowners. He said he would have understood if it concerned solely the properties of the Government. He then asked why a customary land owner, as lessor, must go through the Government when the land belongs to him. He concluded that the Bill was totally unfair to customary land owners, thus, will vote against.

8. The Hon. Christopher EMELEE, Member for Torres referred to item two of the Bill and asked the Minister of Lands if it concerned the people of Torba Province. He also asked when the Government would consider the issues faced by the people of Torba Province.

9. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU responded that the Bill concerned the entire population and that includes the people of Torba Province. With regret, he said the land disputes in Torba have not been resolved yet. He stated that the Government has tried to acquire the land without success. He added that the latter was regarded as disastrous area for tsunami, however, Mota Lava voluntarily accepts the people of Sola in exchange for Government services. Concerning the Government’s intervention in land issues, he referred to Article 79 (1) of the Constitution which provides that land transactions between an indigenous citizen either a non-indigenous citizen or a non-citizen shall only be permitted with the consent of the Government. He went on that the purpose of this Article was to protect the interest of the people. With regards to the allegations made by the Leader of Opposition, he declared that the Government’s intention to propagate and cease people’s property was untrue. He then announced that there was no case against the quarry exploitation by CCECC. Regarding revenue collection, he encouraged people not to only see land as a source of income but the ‘Mother’ of our ancestors. He reminded the House that land is the foundation of independence and commanded that it be protected. He asked that Members return to their respective constituencies and make consultations on the Land Management Act with the help of Chiefs. Concerning, Land Acquisition Act, he highlighted his disappointment on a particular author to whom the House owes Honor to, in this morning’s paper basing solely on one side of the story. Moreover, he emphasized that this was not the first time, thus, reminded the House that the Land Acquisition Act has been effective since 1980. He explained that the Bill aimed only at clarifying the process that already exists in the Act. He concluded that regarding the case concerning the Chiefs of the Malvatumaeri National Council of Chiefs and sought permission from the Speaker to read the declaration.
10. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau said he understood that the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs held a meeting to discuss the Bill concerned, which he was invited to meet with them the next day. In fact, he added, he strongly felt he should do so, thus, he explained to them the repeal Act. He referred the Minister to the Acquisition Act which has been effective since 1980 and said that it is regarded as robbery if one does not gain the consent of the Custom owner. He said Vanuatu’s custom is not democratic and that even Malvatumauri does not have the right the intervene in a dispute between two villagers. He went on to say that the Land Management Act will destroy the people of Vanuatu and asked that the issue be addressed by envisioning past experiences and improving from them. He concluded that adding more people to the process does not give value to this Bill.

11. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU reminded the Minister that he is able to live on Efate only because the ancestors granted the land leases. He then asked if the Custom land would pass through the Commission to be revised.

12. The Hon. Christopher EMELEE, Member for Torres, said the idea to relocate the inhabitants of Sola to Mota-Lava was not the solution. He expressed himself as Member for Torba hoping that the Minister will consider this issue and collaborate with the other Member of the same constituency to find a solution for Sola residents.

13. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU responded that whatever the MP for Torba heard was misinformation. He explained that the suggestion to relocate Sola residents was made by the Provincial Council, however, the Government was worried about that decision thus asked the MPs and Members of the Provincial Council to submit their proposals. Moreover, the acquisition would be the last resort only if the two parties cannot come into agreement and then announced that the issue was still under consultation phase. Regarding the queries raised by the Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, he responded that the process required to be submitted to the Council for consideration. He added that he was in agreement with the Leader of Opposition that the Government omitted its responsibilities over the years, then asked the latter to assist with the Port Vila case. He said that many people were waiting for the land leases, unfortunately the Ifira Trustees Ltd Board of Directors has not called a meeting for that yet. He then called on the Leader of the Opposition to assist by ensuring that the Board meets to deal with the pending issues. He declared the absence of physical planning for Port Vila and assured the House that Luganville’s plan would be officially released next month as per information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

14. The Hon. Norris KALMET, Member for Efate, asked if it was necessary to ask permission for the Government to acquire land that is under a subdivision lease.

15. The Hon. Bruno LENGKON, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member for Ambrym, raised a point of order and asked the Members of the House to comment according to the principle of the Bill because it has not yet reached committee stage.

16. The Hon. KALMET continued that it was unnecessary to go through the Commission except if it concerns a land lease shared between two parcels of land.

17. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU informed the House that it was necessary to go through the process only if the lessor was a different person from the customary owner
because (the custom owner) has the right to intervene in decision-making. However, he explained that it was not the same with the lessor being the custom owner.

18. The Hon. KALMET supplemented that if that was the case then it should be made clear because the Act does not precise it, but understood that the Law allows people who are not affected by it to intervene.

19. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON reminded the House of Standing Order (SO) 39 (3) which determines the limited number of times a speaker should address the floor.

20. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU expressed that three (3) times was insufficient especially when it concerns a sensitive subject. He then asked why a customary land owner should let people involved but that have nothing to do with his decision.

21. The Hon. Alfred MAOH, Minister of Internal Affairs and Member for Santo, spoke in support of the Bill underlining the purpose of the Bill, which was to add technical people from the Department of Climate Change and Geo-Hazards.

22. The Hon. Albert WILIAMS, Member for Ambrym, asked the Minister to give more details concerning water supply and then suggested that the Government establish offices in each Province wherever development may occur. He added that from there an office that would be responsible for town and country planning can also be established but asked the Minister to elaborate on the latter.

23. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON gave the Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau the last chance to speak.

24. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael KALSAKAU called for control measures that will ensure that the Government does not work for its own interests. He also questioned the person (s) who will be responsible for the evaluation of Governments proceeds. He informed the House that many custom owners have lost their land, however, the Constitution stipulates that all customs owners should be compensated.

25. The Hon. Don KEN, Deputy Leader of Opposition and Member for Malekula, presumed that the reason why the Government introduced the Bill was because the Chiefs were unable to assume their responsibilities. He asked the custom land owners to stay alert and not let the Government seize their land. He doubted that the Government would be able to manage land affairs and recommended that House considered the situation instead of voting according to the majority.

26. The sitting was suspended at 11.30a.m and resumed at 2.20p.m

27. The Hon. Jotham NAPAT, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and Member for Tanna spoke in support of the bill. He said the bill would allow the Geohazards Department to inform investors and the Government on the investment environment.

28. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU replied that the Chiefs were not included in the Land Management and Planning Committee (LMPC). However, they would be notified on any potential land dealing after assessing an application. He added that the government
acquires land for public infrastructure projects, expansion of Provincial Centers and municipal areas. He said that the Government would also acquire the land where staffs are threatened for land issues. He continued that a Town and County Planning Department that involves the LMPC, Provincial Planners and the Custom Land Management Officers would be budgeted for this year. He referred the Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU to section 6 (N) and stated that family members should be notified a month on the proposed subdivision.

29. The motion that the Bill be read the first time was approved by 42 votes in favor, 5 votes against and 2 abstentions.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Section 1, “Amendments”

Amendment 1, “Paragraphs 8A(2)(e),(f) and (g)”

30. The Hon. ALATOI wondered whether the Minister would also include respective Chairman of Island Councils in the LMPC according to Malvatumauri’s resolutions.

31. The Hon. REGENVANU replied that LMPC will trial these resolutions before it can be included in the amendment.

32. Amendment 1, was approved on division.

Amendment 2, “After subsection 8A (2)”

33. Amendment 2, was approved on division.

34. Section 1, was approved on division.

35. Section 2, “Commencement” was approved on division.

SECOND READING

36. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources thanked the Members for their contributions towards the discussion of the bill and moved that the bill be read the second time and do pass.

37. The motion that bill be read the second time and do pass was approved by 42 votes in favor, and 5 votes against.

BILL FOR THE LAND LEASES (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017

FIRST READING

38. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources and Member for Port Vila, introduced the Bill, stated the reasons for the amendment and then moved that the Bill be read the first time.
39. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila wondered if the Minister could isolate Land Rent from other Land conditions, and if it will affect the indivisibility of a title. He questioned why the rectification power of a lease was given to the Director of Lands. He said an extra 10% apart from VAT, Stamp Duty, Registration fee and Property tax would discourage investment. He declared that the opposition would vote against the bill.

40. The Hon. Sato KILMAN, Opposition Whip and Member for Malekula wanted to know whether the 5 and 10% fee would be transferred to the Custom Owner if the government acted on its behalf. He also asked if there is a provision of Land cancelations acquired by the Government, meanwhile whether there would be anything due to the Government.

41. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS, Member for Ambrym thanked the Minister for incorporating the National Subdivision Policy in this Act to address most subdivision issues. He asked whether this regulation is also retrospective. He was worried that it will be difficult for a Ni-Vanuatu to develop the land in 5 years. He asked if there would be any directives to hasten application responses.

42. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, asked the Minister to appoint a commission of enquiry on the issue of quota in the Custom Owner Trust Account. He also wanted to know how much was in the Trust Account.

43. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU responded that the Director only has rectification power if the company was removed from the VFSC for more than 12 months, and the Minister declared that the land was acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. He continued that the bill separated land rent so that a lessor can forfeit a lease upon breaching of a condition. He stated that the 10% of rural leases was already passed in 2004, while the 5% applies to urban leases since other fees are also applied. The 2004 amendment requires the Ministry of Lands to charge 35% of an improved value. He said that the government has to benefit from this premium. He added that the Malvatumauri had wanted more than 10%. However, when the Government acted on behalf of the disputing party, lessor benefits is assigned to a quota. He said that there has never been any case of cancelling a land acquisition. He furthered that it is possible to make the Subdivision Policy retrospective, but it needs further consultation with stakeholders. He assured the Members that there would be a commission of enquiry on the Account, however, will provide more figures that are accurate during the Land Acquisition bill.

44. The Hon. ALATOI questioned if the Government is not mugging the Custom Owners with the 10%.

45. The Hon. REGENVANU clarified that the 10% goes to a quota for the Custom Owner.

46. The Hon. ALATOI referred to item 7 and said that the 10% is paid to the Government.

47. The Hon. REGENVANU responded that in regards to urban lands, public interest becomes the property of the Government. He said the issue has been settled in court that the Government has acquired these lands and there is no Custom Owner.

48. The motion that the Bill be read the first time was approved by 42 votes in favor and 5 votes against.
49. The sitting was suspended at 3.35 p.m and resumed at 4.05 p.m

**ORAL QUESTIONs**

50. The Hon. François Chani TABISAL, Member for Pentecost, asked when the Government would assist to improve the services and facilities of the Namaram Hospital. He also wanted to know when the roads in the Northern part of the Island be addressed, as it has become an issue where a man lost his life due to lack of transport and lack of qualified people in the Hospital.

51. The Hon. Jerome LUDVAUNE, Minister of Health and Member for Malekula, thanked the MP for the queries raised and admitted the difficulties of accessing transportation in the area. He informed the House that a boat will be provided to facilitate medical evacuations to well-equipped medical centres. He then announced the renovation of the Namaram Hospital to commence in July as requested by the Hon. MP CHANI. Regarding lack of nurses, he explained that this was a major issue experienced throughout the country. He said there was a need to increases the number of Nurses thus, the intake must also be increased. He said the graduated student Nurses needed to be well trained on the field before transferring them to the health centres or hospitals.

52. The Hon. John SALA, Member for Malekula, began by thanking the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock for restocking the cattle project then asked when the cattle would be delivered to South West Bay.

53. The Hon. Jotham NAPAT, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Acting Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and Member for Tanna, responded that the upcoming supplementary appropriation will include the budget for the fulfilment of the second delivery of cattle to SWB.

54. The Hon. Andrew NAPUAT, Member for Tanna, asked when the Government would consider the roads in North Tanna. He then recalled that the Minister had quoted that work would commence on the first or second quarter of the year. For that, he asked for an update on the progress.

55. The Hon. Minister NAPAT reassured the House that the road infrastructure in North Tanna would certainly be addressed.

56. The Hon. Christopher EMELEE, Opposition Whip and Member for Torres, recalled that three weeks back, cyclone Donna ravaged the Torres Islands, however no state of emergency has been called. He said the Islands needed a Doctor because since 2006 there has not been any Doctors there. He presumed that the Minister will probably give the excuse of training period but it takes less than 10 years to train a Doctor.

57. The Hon. Ham LINI, Minister of Climate Change Adaptations and Member for Pentecost, confirmed that Torba Province is very remoted, however, there was an
emergency response but it has not been declared a disaster risk zone. He laid-off allegations made by the Head of State during his speech that the cyclone has caused the lives of two people there. He made it clear that the people concerned were injured but not dead. He informed the House that a ship has left for Tafea Province with relief supplies, however, some goods were found to be expired. Furthermore, he said he was unaware of where the goods have arrived from, but, can only confirm that water was delivered by New Caledonia. All in all, he was delighted to announce that no matter the difficulties, the Islands were supplied with 5 tonnes of food.

58. The Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate, referred his question to the Minister of Justice. He asked that the ‘Malarua’ situation be clarified and whether or not the Custom Owners were identified which resulted on the Government’s intention to acquire the land.

59. The Hon. Ronald Warsal KALMASEI, Minister of Justice and Community Services and Member for Santo, clarified that the ‘Malarua’ property was still on dispute. He explained that the Chief has made a decision and identified that the real owners were from Emua. However, he added that the other party filed a court case against that decision which has caused several complications along its way. He went on to say that the complications included further dispute even after a judgement has been made. He then appealed to the people concerned to come to an agreement, which according to him, will be difficult as today everybody knows their rights.

60. The Hon. Sailas Bule MELVE, Member for Pentecost, reminded the Minister of Infrastructure that the People of East Pentecost were still waiting for proper roads. He stated that there was a recent incident causing the life of a man because of these poor road conditions.

61. The Hon. Minister NAPAT admitted that the Eastern part of Pentecost had bad road conditions, however, he announced that the budget did not cover the roads concerned but it needed an engineer to draw a proper plan of the area first. He took the opportunity to mention the other road project which should begin at Bwatnapni to the Water Fall. Moreover, he took note of MP CHANI’s concern to consider and will ensure the Government finds a solution.

62. The Hon. Toara Daniel. KALO, Member for Shepherds Outer Islands, wanted to know the number of shipping vessels flying the Vanuatu flag and if it was possible to employ Ni-Vanuatu in them.

63. The Hon. Minister NAPAT claimed that the International Shipping Registry is currently facing a long term debt issue and has long been neglected by the Government. He informed the House that a document was approved by the Council of Ministers requiring the Government to conduct an investigation. He added that while the Government is still looking at other options, he asked that a ‘Task Force Committee’ be established since shipping registry has become a very sensitive issue which must avoid political intervention. He went on that the Ministry of Infrastructure has approached the South Sea
Shipping Limited and has discussed ways to facilitate the intake of young Ni Vanuatu into Maritime College so that they can later work in the shipping industry. He gave statistics of about 5000 applications for only 1000 places.

64. The Hon. Nakou NATUMAN, Member for Tanna, directed his question to the Minister of Internal Affairs and asked what happened to the funds allocated for strengthening Area Councils.

65. The Hon. Alfred MAOIH, Minister of Internal Affairs and Member for Santo, thanked the Member for his question and confirmed that Department of Local Authorities will launch a booklet detailing what needs to be done. He also announced that changes will be made to the Provincial Councils, that is, the Secretaries of the latter must be Public Servants who will also be responsible for preparing the budget and reporting its expenses.

66. The Hon. Kalo SEULE, Member for Port Vila, said that some red electoral card holders cannot exercise both of their voting rights, that is, the general elections and Municipal elections. He then appealed to the Minister of Internal Affairs to consider the issue. He then reminded the House that his previous position in the Shefa Provincial Council was still vacant, being unfair and unconstitutional to ignore the representative of the constituents.

67. The Hon. Minister MAOIH admitted that the voting system not only affected Port Vila but the whole of Vanuatu, but, he assured the House that the Department of Internal Affairs was doing its best to address the issue. He said that after consultations with the Electoral Office, there are intentions of amending the Act. Concerning the vacant seat in the Shefa Provincial Council, he said he would consult the Chairman of the Electoral Commission then report back to the House later.

68. The Hon. Rick Tchamako MAHE, Member for Santo, asked the Minister of Finance as well as the Minister of Infrastructure to inform the people of Santo when the Pekoa Airport project would commence.

69. The Hon. Minister NAPAT explained that the Government had requested assistance of the World Bank and the contract was awarded to the Chinese construction company “CCECC”. According to the schedule, he said, Bauerfield and Pekoa Airports would be upgraded to grade D and White Grass Airport to grade C. He said the work should probably begin in July or August and that Pekoa Airport would be potentially extended to accommodate Air Bus aircrafts. He said that from future perspectives, the construction of the runway would be funded by other aid donors, but the Government will assist with the first project.

70. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS, Member for Ambrym, asked whether or not, among the Government’s plan, there was one which can provide for the establishment of bilingual year 13 classes on Ambrym. He also took the opportunity to ask the Minister of Infrastructure when the Government will address the road conditions and airport of North Ambrym. With regards to the Pacer Plus agreement, he notified an influx totalling up to
Vt2.7 billion and for that he asked if the amount was calculated per year or does it cover the 5 years as per the agreement. He also drew the Minister of Health’s attention to the limited number of health workers in the field. He added that there was only one qualified Urologist, who is currently working in Nauru and a shortage of Nurses and suggested that the number of admissions be increased to fill the gap.

71. The Hon. Minister NAPAT thanked the Hon. WILLIAMS for his question and informed the House that the outstanding works in West Ambrym will extend to North Ambrym. He assured that the Government is targeting 2 Islands in particular, Ambrym and Gaua. He added he had the privilege of meeting with the High Commission of Australia to Vanuatu through the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to seek aid for an additional excavator for the R40 (road extension) project. He said that the response has been favourable and so the machine would be shipped directly to Ambrym for road maintenance works. Concerning the supplementary budget, he said the Ministry is optimizing its expenses by trying to address road that need immediate attention. He then pointed out that Vt40 million was needed to meet the Airport renovations and warned the custom land owners on Tanna that if they do not come to agreement for road constructions there then the money will be used to fund that of Ambrym.

72. The Hon. Don KEN, Deputy Leader of Opposition and Member for Malekula, asked the Minister of Youth and Sports to briefly describe the progress of the preparations towards the 2017 Pacific Mini Games, which would occur in December. He demanded clarifications after rumours have been spread about mismanagement despite the fact that the Chinese have almost completed construction of the stadium.

73. The Hon. Simeon SEOULE, Minister of Youth Development and Sport and Member for Epi, said he would present a statement on the progress of work of the Van2017 preparations.

74. The Hon. Jerry KANAS, Member for Efate, sought clarification on the Malarua case with the Minister of Justice. He said the Minister will require evidence to justify what is being said.

75. The Hon. Minister KALMASEI responded that he had in his possession the judicial document no. 636 of 2015 and read it. However, he admitted that he had no document concerning the Chief’s decision, but will provide once received.

76. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, questioned the COTA Trust Account, asking its current balance and if the Vt2 billion was intended to compensate the customary landowners of Port Vila.

77. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU asked the Member to repeat his question.

78. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU repeated his question concerning the COTA.
79. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU announced that the compensation for the Port Vila land has already been made. He explained that the Court of Appeal quoted for land since 2003, but there were no references for the years before that.

80. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON then sought consensus of the House to give the oral question time another 15 minutes, but was declined.

81. The sitting was adjourned at 5p.m.
SPEAKER : The Hon. Esmon SAIMON, Member for Malekula
PRESENT : 51 Members
ABSENT : The Hon. Matai SEREMAIAH, Member for Luganville
LATE :

1. The sitting commenced at 9.10 a.m.
2. The Hon. Jerome LUDVAUNE, Minister of Health and Member for Malekula, said the Prayer.
3. The Hon. Speaker Esmon SAIMON read the agenda of the day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The Hon. Speaker SAIMON announced that as part of the Environment week, there would be a tree planting ceremony on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at the Parliament. Fifty-two sandalwood seedlings would be available at the Parliament for the Members to plant.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

4. The Hon. Ham LINI Vanuaroroa, Minister of Planning and Climate Change Adaptation and Member for Pentecost, presented his statement.
5. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member Port Vila, acknowledged the Tafea Provincial Government on their swift response in providing local food assistance. However, other than damage assessments, he said that the report has to clearly state what the Government did so that it does not only depend on foreign assistance.
6. The Hon. Kalo SEULE wondered how long it often takes to declare an area a disaster zone.
7. The Hon. Christopher EMELEE, Member for Torres thanked the Minister for declaring Torres a disaster zone. He also thanked Doctor Mark for his free service. He blamed the Government on the false information on food, firewood and diabetes in Torres made by a foreigner. He thanked the Tafea Community for their support and said that cyclone is only one of the many disasters in Torres.

8. The Hon. Andrew NAPUAT, Member for Tanna saluted the Tafea community, that it could have been cheaper and efficient if closer provinces offered such support.

9. The Hon. Minister LUDVAUNE confirmed that rumours about shortage and expire Medicine were inaccurate. He said that there were no deaths according to the Provincial Health Quarter, whereas, it was reported in the news otherwise. He said that the Ministry has visited the Province to ensure people were safe and information were accurate.

10. The Hon. Alfred MAOH, Minister of Internal Affairs and Member for Santo confirmed that Council of Ministers had given directives for his Ministry to register and regulate all NGOs in Vanuatu.

11. The Hon. Jotham NAPAT, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and Member for Tanna said that the Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed that food in Torba could last for 3 weeks after an assessment. This has given enough time for the government to respond with the 25million vatu. He added that school fees have been exempted for term 2 and 3.

12. The Hon. Minister LINI responded that the reason for the declaration was for fund allocations and said that the Government has learnt a lot from the TC PAM experience in addressing such disasters.

13. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources and Member for Port Vila, presented his statement.

14. The Hon. ALATOI responded that there was no acquisition notice to the statement of Hon. Minister that acquisition process has started. He questioned why there has to be an appeal against the decision of area council. He noted that the National Land Coordinator should have been present in the first meeting to ensure all laws were adhered to. He questioned the Government on its decision to acquire the whole land when it only has interest on the stockpile.

15. The Hon. Sato KILMAN, Member for Malekula wanted to know why the Government could not take what it has paid for and leave the landowners to settle their disputes, instead of acquiring their land. He wondered why it was allowed for people to claim when landowners have been declared.

16. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Port Vila questioned the interest of the Government on Malarua, as there were alternative options within Vanuatu.

17. The Hon. NAPAT responded that over 60,000 metric tons of aggregate is needed for the airport plus an extra 40,000 for the Efate ring road. He stated that it could cost 900 Million Vatu to import from Fiji or New Caledonia. He added that there is an urgency to address
the airport as it has exceeded its life expectancy. He concluded that there are alternative options within Vanuatu, but these places could also have land disputes.

18. The Hon. REGENVANU responded that the Government could not move without the consent of custom owners who still have pending cases. However, if there is an urgent need and they cannot agree, the government must proceed to acquire the land.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

19. The Hon. Gaetan PIKIOUNE, Minister of Finance and Economic Management and Member for Santo tabled the VNPF report.

BILL FOR THE LAND LEASES (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017 (Continue)

COMMITTEE STAGE

Section 1, “Amendments”

Amendment 1, “After section 7”

20. The Hon. KILMAN declared his interest on Lakatoro and asked whether the Government would claim anything from the landowner if the director of lands cancels the acquisition.

21. The Hon. REGENVANU clarified that the Government chose only to acquire a lease to quicken the process of turning a lease into a public land whilst the director would later cancel the lease so it can become a state land.

22. The Hon. KILMAN asked the difference of acquiring the land rather than transferring it as provided by law.

23. The Hon. REGENVANU replied that both options are available, however, acquiring land would be a quicker option.

24. The Hon. ALATOI wondered why the Government has moved to land acquisition when it can take a lease.

25. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU replied that, the difference is when the custom owner does not give consent; the Government would apply the Land Acquisition Act.

26. Amendment 1, was approved on division.

27. Amendment 2, “After subsection 12(2)” was approved on division.

Amendment 3, “After section 32D”

28. Seconded by the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, the Hon. REGENVANU moved item 3 of parliamentary amendment.

29. The motion was approved by 37 votes in favor and 4 votes against.
30. Amendment 3, as amended, was approved on division.

31. Amendment 4, "Subsection 43(3)" was approved on division

Amendment 5, "Subsections 48A(2)"

32. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, the Hon. REGENVANU moved item 5 of parliamentary amendment.

33. The Hon. ALATOI raised a point of order, and asked if there were any policy reasons of changing the word from 'lower' to 'higher' in the amendment.

34. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU replied that it was a mistake of drafting.

35. The Hon. ALATOI asked if the Minister could explain the real meaning of the section in view of the change, if it was a mistake.

36. The Hon. REGENVANU explained that the section refers to lessor benefit, which is to maximize the lessor benefit.

37. The motion was approved by 37 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

38. Amendment 5, as amended, was approved on division.

Amendment 6, "Subsection 48A(3)"

39. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, the Hon. REGENVANU moved item 6 of parliamentary amendment.

40. The motion was approved by 37 votes in favor and 3 votes against.

41. Amendment 6, as amended, was approved on division.

42. The sitting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

Amendment 7, "Subsection 48B(2)"

43. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, the Hon. Minister REGENVANU moved two parliamentary amendments in item 7.

44. The motions were approved by 38 votes in favor, 4 votes against and 1 abstention.

45. The Hon. ALATOI said that this policy change of compulsory acquisition would encourage Government to quickly acquire land from custom owner for its benefit.

46. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS raised his concern that majority of lease holders are Ni-Vanuatu citizens. He feared that affordability will become more difficult, and it must be revisited.
47. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU inquired if the extra 5% from the 7% fee for a transfer of urban lease would be beneficial.

48. The Hon. REGENVANU replied to Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU that it was already in the law. He responded to Hon. WILLIAMS that it would allow the Government to increase the 5% fee for urban leases, thus, allow payments via instalments for low-income earners. However, for rural areas, it will be supplemented to negotiation between the landowner and the lessee, meanwhile

49. e; this provision would give the lessee an opportunity to negotiate with the custom owner.

50. Amendment 7, as amended, was approved on division.

51. Amendment 8, “After subsection 99(3)” was approved on division.

52. Section 1, was approved on division.

53. Section 2, “Commencement” was approved on division.

SECOND READING

54. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources thanked the Government for its support and moved that the Bill be read a second time and do pass.

55. The motion that the Bill be read a second time and do pass was approved by 34 votes in favor, 4 votes against, and 4 abstentions.

56. The sitting was suspended at 11.30 a.m and resumed at 2.30p.m

BILL FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (2017) ACT NO. OF 2017

FIRST READING

57. The Hon. Gaetan PIKIOUNE, Minister of Finance and Economic Management and Member for Santo, introduced the Bill, stated its purpose and then moved that the Bill be read a first time.

58. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila, compared the previous supplementary appropriation and the current one and noted that it was inconsistent with the explanatory note the Minister gave. He asked the Minister to clarify whether these were new or existing programs. He also asked why the Minister of Education included the supplementary budget after he has promised that scholarships will be offered upon merit. He went on to say that he only saw two explanations in the Minister’s speech, first of which he does not mark his words and the other, the miscalculation. He then questioned the duties of the Parliamentary Secretaries, because according to rumors, these appointed persons do not have offices. In addition, he said it was heartbreaking to see politicians fighting over their own ambitions instead of focusing on the needs of their people. He says he heard that there is an investigation on the funds
donated by the European Union. He, therefore, urged that a report be made on the use of the allocated budget to support the amount. Moreover, he declared that the Opposition would vote against if the Bill defends the interest of politicians.

59. The Hon. Sato KILMAN, Member for Malekula, thanked the Minister for the introduction of the Bill and admitted that it is a usual practice to introduce supplementary budgets in Parliament. However, he said that the way the Bill was debated was different and pointed out that the Minister failed to explain the activities under which the funds were allocated to prove a good financial management. He asked the Minister to indicate the where will the funds would come from and stressed the need to present a balance of the budget in Parliament. He said that while he respected the Members of this House, he questioned the purpose of having Parliamentary Secretaries. To conclude, he urged the Minister to respond accordingly because the country was still under Cyclone recovery period.

60. The Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE was in agreement with the Leader of Opposition and said it was a usual practice to table the Supplementary Appropriation. He stated, however that, the budget report would be presented later in the year during the Second Ordinary Session of Parliament. He explained that the largest portion of the supplementary funds goes towards the preparation of the 2017 South Pacific Mini Games. With regards to the question regarding the inclusion of scholarships, he said Vanuatu is a developing country which needs to financially prepare itself to support students. He added that he would make a statement on that if necessary. He then acknowledged the Parliamentary Secretaries, particularly the Department of Finance, whose efforts have greatly improved the status of the Ministry. He then confirmed the supplement of Vt90 million to compensate land owners of Bauerfield Airport, Vt4 billion for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover part of Vanuatu’s membership fees and concluded that the details of the latter can be found in the schedule.

61. The Hon. Simeon SEOULE Minister of Youth, Sport and Training Development and Member for Epi, highlighted the importance of the role of the Parliamentary Secretary within his Ministry. He then made a statement on the status of the latter. Furthermore, he reassured Parliament that a report on the use of the budget would be given, however, for the time being it must be approved. He added that the Ministry of Finance had the control of all the funds, thus, the Ministry of Sports must comply with and meet all the criteria issued by the Ministry of Finance. He announced that a copy of the requirements be distributed to the next day. While he spoke in support of the Bill, he also requested that all sports discipline comply by the rules of law.

62. The Hon. Samson SAMSEN, Member for Santo, thanked the Minister of Finance for the introduction of the Supplementary Appropriation and questioned the Government’s objective after have failed most of its project proposals. He agreed with the budget put before the House and asked the Government to find ways to collect more revenue.

63. The Hon. Bruno LENGKON, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member for Ambrym, thanked the Minister of Finance for having injected money for his Ministry to allow it to settle the debts that have been accumulating over the years. He said this would help to protect Vanuatu’s reputation from the rest of the World. He added that the country’s independence reflects its diplomatic missions, thus, it must have a good reputation in foreign missions.
64. The Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE explained that the VT 1.8 million stated in the budget was part of the Government’s surplus which was why he used the term ‘Prudent Management’ in his previous statement. He assured the House that the money would not come from a loan and that the forecast was made for the month of April and not this month.

65. The Hon. Bob LOUGHMAN, Government Whip and Member for Tanna, speaking in favor of the Bill, pointed out that it was a normal process for the Government to table a Supplementary Appropriation Bill. However, he added that it was inappropriate to add a surplus on staff wages but asked that the young graduates be given a chance to prove their capabilities. He compared the supplementary budget of the Judiciary and Executive to that of the Legislative power and questioned why such an increase. As a Member of the Standing Order Review committee, he asked the Government to ensure a re-examination of the supplementary budget and its policies.

66. The Hon. Jean Pierre NIRUA, Minister of Education, said he was amazed with the number of students eligible for Agence Universitaire De la Francophonie and Emalus Campus. He thanked the Minister of Finance for including the funds in the budget. He also noted the increase of number of students receiving scholarships to study at the University of the South Pacific and announced the gold medalist who recently graduated from USP is from Vanuatu. He informed the House that the scholarship office has not set up any databases just yet; however, the Office will sign a contract with OGCIO to set up a database system to record exact number of students. He concluded that it would be more appropriate to have a control system to avoid activities that would result in the Ministry demanding supplementary funding.

67. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, thanked the Minister of Finance for introducing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and then thanked the Minister of Sports for representing Vanuatu in South Korea during the games. He then questioned the debt the Minister of Foreign Affairs was referring to and sought clarification on the legal costs amounting to Vt 10 million for he understood that the Government consults with the State Law Office.

68. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS, Member for Ambrym, spoke in favor of the Bill by responding to the question raised by the Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU on Vanuatu’s presence in conventions, he said that the country’s absence was due to its financial failure to settle its participation fees. He, therefore, advised to ensure fees are a priority in order to enable the country to be part of these conventions. He reminded the House of the accumulation of debts and said it could have been avoided, if it had been settled annually. He then questioned the Government’s plans for the industrial forest plantation as well as how VT 53 million allocated to it, has been spent. He concluded by recommending the Government to settle its obligations with the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) and proceed with a recovery process.

69. The Hon. SAMSEN asked whether the membership fees would be paid.

70. The Hon. Minister LENGKON, supplemented the response given by the Hon. WILLIAMS and said that the Government and Members of Parliament needed to work in collaboration with the Brussels Consulate in order to be able to participate in Vanuatu’s contribution to the Inter Parliamentary Union.
71. The Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE pointed out the VT 53 million as mentioned by the Hon. WILLIAMS and clarified that the former Government had designated a private person to seize the property and buy it through BSP. He then asked the Acting Minister of Agriculture to respond to questions raised about fishing activities.

72. The Hon. Minister NAPAT explained that in the event of a budget shortfall, a supplementary budget is then presented in order to cater for those shortfalls. Concerning the Agriculture sector, he said for now the Government is still investigating the illegal dismissal of some Agriculture staff.

73. The Hon Charlot SALWAI, Prime Minister and Member for Pentecost, admitted being thankful to the savings made by the Ministry of Finance, additional funds has been made available for Parliament to approve. He also admitted that the Government is obliged to create other sources of revenue to meet its financial obligations. He rejected the idea of financial dependency on development partners; however, he announced the culmination of difficulties that prevented Government obligations such as, early retirement compensations, job creations and others. He also announced a Vt200 million debt on international organizations, which was why a supplementary budget was introduced for the benefits of this Country. He also explained that the establishment of Diplomatic Offices are also included in the budget; in fact, he announced the establishment of a High Commission in New Zealand given the increased number of Seasonal Workers working there. He then concluded that the budget also includes the maintenance of the Convention Center.

74. The motion that the Bill be read a first time was approved by 41 votes in favor and 6 abstentions.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Section 1, “Appropriation of amounts under section 34 of the Public Finance and Economic Management Act [CAP 244]”

75. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate, the Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE moved to delete the total amount of VT 1, 778, 259, 400 and substituted with the new amount VT 1, 828, 259, 400.

76. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 5 abstentions.

77. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, the Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE moved to repeal “Schedule I” and substitute with the new “Schedule I”.

78. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 5 abstentions.

79. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON noted that there was insufficient time left to complete the Bill, he then sought and gained consensus of the House to allow time to complete the rest of the Bill.

80. Section 1, as amended, was approved on division.
81. Section 2, "Commencement", was approved on division.

SECOND READING

82. The Hon. Minister PIKIOUNE thanked both sides of the House for their contributions and then moved that the Bill be read a second time and do pass.

83. The motion that the Bill be read a second time and do pass was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 abstentions.

WRITTEN MOTION

MOTION NO. 1 OF 2017

Motion for the Membership of Parliament of Vanuatu to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

84. Seconded by the Hon. Bob LOUGHMAN, Government Whip and Member for Tanna, the Hon. Edwin MACREVETH, First Deputy Speaker and Member for Santo, presented and moved motion No. 1 of 2017. (See Appendix – III)

85. The motion was approved unanimously.

86. The sitting was adjourned at 4.15p.m.
PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2017

SPEAKER : The Hon. Esmon SAIMON, Member for Malekula
PRESENT : 51 Members
ABSENT : The Hon. Matai SEREMAIAH, Member for Luganville
LATE : 

1. The sitting commenced at 2.35 p.m.

2. The Hon. John SALA, Member for Malekula said the Prayer.

3. The Hon. Speaker Esmon SAIMON read the agenda of the day.

4. The Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate indicated the next bill.

BILL FOR THE STRATA TITLES (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017
FIRST READING

5. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources and Member for Port Vila, introduced the Bill, stated the reasons for the amendment and then moved the Bill to first reading.

6. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael Kalsakau, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila acknowledged the Minister. He wondered whether there was enough consultation since applying strata on Land does not alter its definition. He questioned why this issue was addressed in the Strata Titles Act instead of the Land Leases Act. He said this bill neglects the Government’s responsibility to provide roads, electricity and water access. On the essence of custom owners, what would happen after 75 years of the lease. He said that the Government must respect the people’s agreement on the Land Summit, thus, the Opposition will not support bill.
7. The Hon. REGENVANU responded that strata and community title stands on the lease. He clarified that the Land Summit agreement has been resolved as some people prefer strata and community plans other than land leases. He said that the Government gives options to people if they prefer strata so that they can develop it. He clarified that unless there is any agreement between both parties, land will return to the custom owner after 75 years. He concluded that strata title is subjected to lease, meanwhile, the custom owner will benefit from the transfer.

8. The Hon. Hosea NEVU, Member for Santo spoke in support of the bill. He wanted to know if the Government has any proposal to help custom owners subdivide their lands due to the high cost of living.

9. The Hon. François Chani TABISAL, Member for Pentecost wanted to know the composition of the Body Corporate and whether it has any regulation.

10. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS wanted to know whether it is the responsibility of URA or LMPC to connect electricity.

11. The Hon. REGENVANU explained that water and electricity must be connected if the subdivision is within 500m from the supply. However, the LMPC will have the discretion beyond 500m. He replied to the Hon. TABISAL that anyone who acquires a lot of land automatically become a member of Body Corporate. He said that this amendment also allows the Government intervention if the Body Corporate does not comply with the law. He responded to Hon. NEVU that the Government is currently working on a National Housing Policy with the assistance of the World Bank to provide affordable leases to the people.

12. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, disagreed as the process will be prolonged since every decision will be made by LMPC, leaving the lessor powerless.

13. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU responded that LMPC (Land Management Planning Committee) who is the Government will decide if a land transaction is on the custom owner, community and the nation’s interest. He stated that LMPC is empowered by Article 79 of the constitution to ensure that when land is subdivided, everyone must benefit from services such as road, water and electricity.

14. The Hon. Ephraim KALSAKAU, Member for Efate spoke in support of the bill because most lease holders are overcharging people with electricity and water.

15. The motion that the Bill be read the first was approved by 41 votes in favor and 5 votes against.

**COMMITTEE STAGE**

Section 1, **“Amendment”**

16. Amendment 1, **“Title of the Act”** was approved on division.

17. Amendment 2, **“Reference to “Strata Titles Act [CAP 266]”** was approved on division.
18. Amendment 3, "Section 1 (definition of "common property")" was approved on division

Amendment 4, "Section 1 (definition of "consent authority")"

19. The Hon. Andrew NAPUAT, Member for Tanna said that the Minister must ensure that LMPC is performing its tasks on time, and apply disciplinary action to avoid delays.

20. Amendment 4, was approved on division.

21. Amendment 5, "Section 1 (definitions of "lessee", "lot", "parcel" and "special resolution")" was approved on division.

22. Amendment 6, "Section 1" was approved on division.

23. Amendment 7, "Section 1 (paragraph (b) of the definition of "strata plan")" was approved on division.

24. Amendment 8, "Sections 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D" was approved on division.

25. Amendment 9, "Sections 2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 27" was approved on division.

26. Amendment 10, "Subsection 2(1)" was approved on division.

Amendment 11, "Subsections 2(1A) and 2(1B)"

27. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of the Government Business and member for Efate, the Hon. REGENVANU, moved Parliamentary Amendment 1, 2, 3 and 4.

28. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

29. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, The Hon. REGENVANU, moved Parliamentary Amendment 5 and 6.

30. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

31. Amendment 11, as amended, was approved on division.


Amendment 18, "After section 4"

33. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, the Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, moved Parliamentary Amendment 7 for the English version.

34. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 votes against.
35. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, the Hon. REGENVANU, moved Parliamentary Amendment 8 in the French version.

36. The motion was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

37. The Hon. ALATOI asked if the Minister could include a provision that allows the custom owner to access its resources, such as road access to the sea.

38. The Hon. REGENVANU referred to Section 4(e) of the National Land Subdivision Policy.

39. Amendment 18, as amended, was approved on division.

40. Amendment 19, "Section 5", Amendment 20, "Subsection 12(1)”, Amendment 21, "Subsection 15(1)”, Amendment 22, “Paragraph 16(1)(a)”, Amendment 23, “After paragraph 27(b)”, Amendment 24, “Transitional”, were approved on division.

41. Section 1, “Amendment” was approved on division.

42. Section 2, “Commencement” was approved on division.

SECOND READING

43. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, Geology and Natural Resources thanked the support of the Government and moved the Bill to second reading and do pass.

44. The motion that the bill be read the second time and do pass was approved by 41 votes in favor and 4 votes against.

WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 1 OF 2017

45. The Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate read the written motion. (See Appendix – IV)

46. The Hon. Jotham NAPAT, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and Member for Tanna responded to the written motion.

47. The sitting was adjourned at 4.15 p.m.
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF PARLIAMENT

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017

THURSDAY 08 JUNE 2017

SPEAKER : The Hon. Esmon SAIMON, Member for Maleukla

PRESENT : 50 Members

ABSENT : The Hon. Ronald Warsal KALMASEI, Member for Santo
          The Hon. Matai SEREMAIAH, Member for Luganville

LATE : 

1. The sitting commenced at 9.15a.m.

2. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael KALSAKAU, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila, said the prayer.

3. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON read the agenda.

BILLL FOR THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017

FIRST READING

4. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands and Member for Port Vila, introduced the Bill, stated the reasons for the amendments and then moved that the Bill be read a first time.

5. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael KALSAKAU thanked the Hon. Minister REGENVANU for the introduction of the Bill, then referred to this morning’s news about Malvatumauri’s decision on land acquisition, and hoped that the Minister was not involved in the latter. Concerning the Land Acquisition Bill, precisely the part that stipulates that the Government can acquire land and can withdraw the land title of a landowner. He said the Bill must be withdrawn because despite of having the term ‘compulsory’ withdrawn, the meaning remains the same. In his opinion, the intention of the Government is to remove the customary land from its rightful owners. He then emphasized on the benefit of Malarua’s exploitation, which probably lasted 20 years, then said it was unfair for the Government to take advantage of it instead of trying to reach an agreement with the disputing parties. He stated that as a Member of the KALSAKAU family, this Bill
requires them to share their profits with the Government, compared to the Malarua case; whereby the Government exploited the quarries belonging to the custom owners is considered as robbery. He said the Opposition will vote against this Bill then asked that the Government respects the provisions of the Constitution on Customary land. He recommended that the Bill should have an oversight rather than focusing on a specific case. He concluded that customary landowners should have their rights respected and advised that the Government shared its profits with them.

6. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU, Member for Efate, declared his interest as a customary landowner and said this Bill will also affect not only Port Vila and Efate but the people of Luganville, Norsup, Tanna and other Islands. He asked the Minister of Lands to provide the exact number of leases that have been approved since the introduction of the Land Leases Act and also how much money has been collected on leases on behalf of custom owners into the Custom Owners Trust Account (COTA). As a Member of Parliament for Efate, he demanded to have a Commission of Enquiry (COI) to enquire into the land leases case and added that the Government needed to be vigilant about what the Minister has said about the existence of the land leases appraisal process.

7. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU thanked his fellow colleagues for having spoken about the acquisition of Port Vila and admitted that it is a long-term issue that requires patience. Concerning COTA, he reassured the Member that the information on that would be available next week. He said there were several projects interrupted by different disputes and many have been ceased due to disarrangement with the custom owners. He clarified that despite the Land Acquisition Right given to the Government, it still respects the rights of custom owners. Overall, he insisted that all development on a property should be ceased when given notice for the Government to acquire, which would usually take 12 months for its process.

8. The Hon. ALATOI Ishmael KALSAKAU, Leader of Opposition and Member for Port Vila, said there should not be any disputes over the Malarua case because the decision made by the Court was in accordance with the Act. He said the Government needed to find ways to protect the interests of customary land owners despite the difficulties it may face. He also recommended that the Government and customary landowners should share the benefits of the land.

9. The Hon. Jotham NAPAT, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and Member for Tanna, spoke in favor of the Bill and supported the idea of the shared benefit. He also informed Parliament of the Government’s proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was rejected several times; therefore, a meeting with the custom owners was called to try to reach an agreement. He said that would be a way to ensure the rights of custom owners are respected, however, after four (4) meetings the two parties have not reached an agreement. He stated that the Malarua case is the last option for the Government.

10. The Hon. Fred TASSO, Member for Paama, spoke in favor of the Bill and said it would be very helpful for the Provincial centers. He then stated the importance of ensuring that the Government acquired land for the relocation of the cemetery and dump site as well.

11. The Hon. Andrew NAPUAT, Member for Tanna, pointed out that there were several Bills that were tabled during the session, and then asked that the Government to take a
step back from dealing with the Malarua case and consider other similar cases as well. He asked why the House was commenting on the issue after the money had been spent while the Nakamal has agreed to deal with land case to prevent the risk of misinterpretation of custom. He asked the Minister to clarify the provisions which allows Custom owners to make necessary changes if need be. He then declared his support for the Bill.

12. The Hon. Don KEN, Deputy Leader of Opposition and Member for Malekula, said the Bill was brought before Parliament but lacked consultations. He thanked the Government, meanwhile, pointed out that Land Bills are passed even when the Opposition votes against. He advised that the Government to consult with custom landowners because passing the Bill in Parliament is not a solution. He then referred to the Bills that have been passed allowing the Director General to cease any acquisition process if need be. He went on that this would jeopardize the rights of custom owners and it was important that the People of Vanuatu are made aware of the Government’s intention to deal with land before it is brought before Parliament.

13. The Hon. Ephraim KALSAKAU, Member for Port Vila, spoke in favor of the Bill and as a custom owner; he thanked the Minister for the introduction of the Bill. He then asked that Efate custom land owners to communicate with the Minister concerning land issues. He declared that he trusted the Minister to work closely with landowners.

14. The Hon. Charlot SALWAI, Prime Minister and Member for Pentecost, spoke in favor of the Bill and thanked the Minister for its introduction. He explained that the amendments pave way for custom owners to have access to service delivery process in areas where Government schools are still located on custom land. He said with this rapid development phase, land issues might become obstacles; however, he encouraged custom owners to negotiate. He admitted the threats made about the Government stealing land from custom owners and said that was the case before the introduction of this Bill. He took the opportunity to thank customary landowners for giving up their land for acquisition. He then informed Parliament of the impact of the Bill in the Provinces, but will ensure the Decentralization Act is applied correctly. He said his intention was to set up a process, which the custom landowners may appeal in the case of disagreement. He said that investors were concerned about security, however, that does not prevent anyone from moving forward and making proposals. He concluded that the Government was looking at developing not only Port Vila and Luganville, but other parts of Vanuatu as well.

15. The sitting was suspended at 10.55a.m and resumed at 11.25a.m.

16. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON sought and gained consensus of the House to allow time to complete the Bill.

17. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU said that this Act existed since 1980 and assumed that the Bill must be made known throughout the country. In fact, he explained that the Government did not intend to integrate a new Law but to clarify the process. He recalled an ancestral practice that was to allocate land to build churches, which is why he rejects any threats against which the Government is accused of. Regarding the Malarua issue, he said a complaint was filed in May so he cannot comment on that just yet. Despite it all, he thanked the people of Saratamata on Ambae for allowing development on their
land and announced that there will be other amendments on Land Acts to improve its processes so people can benefit from.

18. The Hon. Christopher EMELEE, Opposition Whip and Member for Torres, spoke in favor of the Bill and explained that ordinary MPs have the right to vote against. He then stressed the importance of ensuring that the Government does not back down on resolving land disputes and consider abundant sites such as Forari so that it can continue with its projects.

19. The Hon. KEN refused to apologize because according to him, his proposals do not affect anyone.

20. The Hon. Hosea NEVU, Member for Santo, pointed out that the Malarua case was considered over while there are many pending cases waiting to be considered. He explained that a petition has been put forward from the Port Olry people who have asked for the acquisition of the land where the VUI generator and the National Bank of Vanuatu branch are located. He then said he would support the Bill.

21. The Hon. Albert WILLIAMS, Member for Ambrym, apologized for his response concerning the supplementary budget. He said there were many landholdings still owned by customary owners that could be acquired by the Government to build schools. He then asked the Minister to confirm whether he has been able to communicate with the Banks Association regarding land in relation to the Bill as well as the Government having plans of acquiring land. He recalled that land on Ambrym have been offered on good faith by the ancestors, many of whom have already passed then asked what will happen after this Bill is passed. He further questioned the policy of relocation in regards to ‘Nambatu’ Area that involves Au Bon Marche shopping Centre. He was of the opinion that it was about time the Government legislates for the benefits of customary landowners so they may continue to benefit from their land. To conclude, he asked if the Lolton case would be a perfect example to follow for this Nation.

22. The Hon. Don KEN, Member for Malekula, apologized to the Member for Torres then added that it would be proper if the Government generalized its point of view instead of focusing only on the Capital city.

23. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU, thanked the Member for changing his point of view on the Bill. He then asked the Hon. WILLIAM to make a request to the Ministry so that through it, the Government may consider possible acquisition. He admitted that the Government only acts when dispute becomes an obstacle for development. Regarding the Provinces, he announced that the Government’s intention and priority was to acquire land for their headquarters. He confirmed having communicated with Banks Association and declared that the Association proposed the amendments made to the Bill. Concerning the Lolton, he referred to Article 9 and explained that the Government has acquired land with a water source, but has been separated to create leases in order to relocate the people on the said land. Concerning the quarry activity at Malarua, he pointed out that there was an agreement made between the two disputing parties. He said to have taken note of the Port Olry people’s request, however, in relation to the question raised by the Member for Torba, he explained that the said lands were not acquired but leased. He concluded by presuming that the Minister of Agriculture has already taken charge of it.
24. The Hon. Alickson VIRA, Member for Ambae, spoke in support of the Bill and highlighted the request of the people of Ambae to extend the Longana airport.

25. The Hon. Joshua KALSAKAU reminded the House of the trust account that is under taken by the Department of Finance and Treasury, and said that he disagreed with the fact that the Director General is managing the trust account. He raised concerns over a case where compensation was made to the wrong people.

26. The Hon. Jerry KANAS, Member for Efate, asked the Minister of Lands to meet with the Malarua landowners and come to a common agreement to resolve the disputes that has been going on for the past years. He encouraged the Government to prevent from abusing its power and then ending up in the hands of the wrong people.

27. The Hon. Jacob MATA, Member for Ambae, spoke in favor of the Bill and supported the Hon. VIRA's comments. He then took the opportunity to talk about the need to relocate the Ndii Ndii hospital. He asked whether it was possible for the Government to intervene with the case.

28. The Hon. Marcellino BARTHELEMY, Member for Malekula, joined his colleagues in thanking the landowners of Port Vila and Luganville for agreeing to give their land for development. He said he was aware of the determination of his people in wanting to protect their land from the Government. He added that as Member for Malekula he was delighted that the Bill was finally introduced for the benefit of the people.

29. The Hon. Francois Chani TABISAL, Member for Pentecost, announced that he would vote in favor of the Bill, however, demanded that the interests of the custom owners be taken into account. He added that this would require that collaboration be mutually beneficial between the Government and landowners.

30. The Hon. Kalo SEULE, Member for Port Vila, reminded the House that the Land Acquisition Act had been established since 1992. He referred to section 9 of the latter and emphasized that the absence of a relocation policy as mentioned by the Member for Ambrym and said that in order for the Government to be fair to the people it must relocate them to a place that is either comparable to the one in question, or to a higher level. He said the people of Mataso who have been evicted from the land where the Parliament is now located are seeking compensation. With respect to the COTA (Custom Owners Trust Account) especially the person who takes charge of the account, he asked if the compensation would be paid one day. He then pointed out that the Government should not allow disputes that may become obstacles for the hunt towards the true custom owner.

31. The Hon. Gaetan PIKIONE, Minister of Finance and Economic Management and Member for Santo, announced that there were two main issues, the first being the land acquisition budget, and the other being the questions asked about the COTA. He informed Parliament of the balance of the COTA account having VT 652 255 344 in it. He said that since 2013, the Government opened a new account at Bred Bank with an opening balance of VT 163, 958, 532. He also wished to confirm that interests have also been received. He concluded that he would work in collaboration with the Minister of Lands to resolve the issues concerning the Land.
32. The Hon. Minister REGENVANU responded to the question raised by the Member for Efate and said that the Financial Management Act was precise. He explained that before the Chief Executive Officer authorizes a payment, the amount is passed through a large number of people. He confirmed that he was aware of a mistake being made; however, he is not aware of the current issue. Regarding the black rocks, he admitted that this remains a problem and it would not be appropriate to give the exact date when the acquisition process would begin. Regarding Norsup airport, he mentioned by the Hon. BARTHELEMY, he was pleased to announce that the airport was now a state property since last year. Thanks to the agreement made between the disputing parties to transfer the money to the Trust Account while waiting for the case to resolve. He said he agreed with the Member for Pentecost when he said, customary land ownership must be considered. In fact, Item 9 proposes a very long process to challenge the amount of compensation. Concerning the question raised by the Hon. SEULE, he said the fact was that there were several issues with the land leases, many of which had nothing to do with the Government. Moreover, he said many custom owners evicted people from their land, which then becomes a Government responsibility. He went on that this was why the Government is acquiring land to relocate people and to have the same or better living conditions. He believed that land issues should be resolved at a community level.

33. The motion that the Bill be read a first time was approved by 39 votes in favor and 3 votes against.

COMMITTEE STAGE

Section 1, “Amendment”

Amendment 1, “Title of the Act. Amendment 2, “References to Land Acquisition Act”

34. Seconded by the Hon. Gillion WILLIAM, Leader of Government Business and Member for Efate, the Hon. Minister REGENVANU moved a Parliamentary amendment to amendments 1 and 2.

35. The motion was approved by 39 votes in favor and 3 votes against.

36. Amendment 1 and 2 as amended, were approved on division.


Amendment 9, “Subsection 9(1)”, Amendment 10, “Subsection 9(1c)”

38. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, the Hon. Minister REGENVANU moved to make Parliamentary amendments to amendments 9 and 10.

39. The motion was approved by 39 votes in favor and 3 votes against.

40. Amendment 9, 10 as amended, were approved on division.
Amendment 11, "After section 10"

41. Seconded by the Hon. WILLIAM, the Hon. Minister REGENVANU moved to make a Parliamentary amendment-to-amendment 10.

42. The motion was approved by 39 votes in favor and 3 votes against.

43. Amendment 11, as amended, was approved on division.

44. Amendment 12, "Section 12", Amendment 13, "Section 13", Amendment 14, "Section 14", Amendment 15, "After section 14", Amendment 16, "At the end of section 16", Amendment 17, "After section 19", were approved on division.

45. Section 1, was approved on division.

46. Section 2, "Commencement", was approved on division.

SECOND READING

47. The Hon. Ralph REGENVANU, Minister of Lands, thanked both sides of the House for their contribution and then moved that the Bill be read a second time and do pass.

48. The motion that the Bill be read the second time and do pass was approved by 38 votes in favor and 3 votes against.


50. The Hon. Speaker SAIMON declared the First Ordinary Session of 2017 closed.

51. THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF 2017 OF THE ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED AT 12.45PM.
APPENDICES

Honorable, Spika Blo Parliament: Esmon Sai,
Hon. Praem Minister: Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas.
Hon. Leader blong Opposition: Ishmael Kalsakau
Hon. Chief Justice: Vincent Lunabek
Hon. Deputy Praem Minista,
Hon. Ministers blong Government,
Hon. Members blong Parliament,
President blong Malavatumaure,
Chairman blong Vanuatu Christian Council:
Excellencies mo members blong Diplomatic Corps
President blong Vanuatu Council of women
President blong Nasonal Youth Council,
Presidents blong ol Provinces,
Lord Mayors blong trifala Municipal Councils,
President blong Chamber blong commerce mo Industries
Ol civil society lidas throughout lo Vanuatu,
Ol man, woman, ol youth, ol pikinini, ol inmates long Correctional Centers, ol special Group, Ol wokman both Public mo private sector employees, mo general public blo Vanuatu.

Hon. Spika,

Thank yu blong mi save addressem National Parliament ia was long taem long fes Ordineri session blong hem long yia ia. Bifo mi mekem statement blong mi long Parliament blong yia ia, allaoem mi smol taem blong ni blong mi joenem
Hon. Prime Minister blong registerem mo congratuletem ol National heroes blong yumi long performens blong U20 Soccer World Cup long South Korea. Indeed U20 blong Vanuatu hemi bia mekem Vanuatu I proud long outstanding performance blong hem. Thank you long Coach mo technical team blong preparem ol players blong oli save displayem professional standard blong football blo yumi. ne Saptembl a Soccer World.

Address blong mi tudei, mi disaed blong addresem yumi olketa leaders – political leaders, church leaders, ol chiefs, woman leaders, youth leaders mo ol citizens blong Vanuatu long concern blong me, we hemi National Security blong Nation. Hon. Speaker, Republic blong Vanuatu, olsem wan sovereign Nation, mas at all times upholdem principal blong democracy mo sovereignty blong hem olsem wan independent state, security hemi stap wan priority blong yumi ol leaders mo ol citizens.

Hon Speaker,

Ever since taem yumi kasem Independence, ol founding Fathers blong yumi I bin disaed se, kaontri blong yumi I mas stanap long wan Motto we Yumi evri wan I save long hem; “long God yumi Stanap”. Mi wandem yumi luk long security blong Neson blong yumi olsem we writer blong Psalms I stap talem long buk blong hem olsem;

“those who trust in the Lord are as Mt. Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever”. (Psalms 125:1)

Olgeta founding Fathers blong yumi oli bin wandem lukim God olsem stampa blong neson blong yumi, mekem se oli mekem covenant ia wetem God. Neson we ma founded long God, security blong hem hemi olsem we mountain ia we ino save muv. Long lukluk ia ma, mi stap besem stampa toktok blong midong tudei se; “National Security blong Vanuatu I mas be rooted long God”.

Follem ol previous kols blong mi long Kavman blong sortemaot ol outstanding klems blong olgeta fos Membas blong yumi, tudei mi adressem Parliament ia, long issue blong National Security, we ol Force Members, VMF and VPF, other agencies oli stap providem.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE NATION AND HER CITIZENS.

Vanuatu olsem wan Sovereign State hemi exist within wan global community, mo wetem limited resoses we yumi gat, security blong neson ia hemi stap long wan vulnerable situation. Nation mo citizens blong Vanuatu I stap long wan bigfala risk tudei, from Vanuatu hemi very vocal long plante sensitive
issues we I stap happen tudei long ol international forums. Wetem brief ia mi wandem haelatem samfala issues we I stap blong I mas start blong addressem.

Increase of criminal Activities throughout the islands especially long Port Vila.

Hon. Spika,

Two taems happiest Nation on the planet, I stap displayem wan fasin we kaontri ia ino needim nating. Long ol islands blong yumi tudei, kaontri I start blong iukim se ol Criminal Activities I start blong happen long ol Provincial Centres blong yumi, mo hemi stap involvem ol yang pipol long ol forms blong theft, trespasses, marijuana hemi stap long ol increase naoia, mekem problem wetem ol girl without consent blong olgeta too I stap go antap olgeta, mo sad scenario we hemi kam antap bigwan to hemi incest we I stap happen long ol homes blong yumi, Yumi mas start blong addressem ol issues ia naoia before hemi too late. Population hemi stap grow bigwan mo wetem population growth ia, yumi stap witnessem increase blong crimes too I kam bigwan

Corruptions affecting Justice and Security:

Hon. Spika,

Wetem demand blong inflow of new ideas blong kat more mane long wan rod we hemi no follem loa, hemi Corruption. Vanuatu osem ol island nation state, oli fem victim long issue blong Corruption. Taem yumi osem ol leaders blong nation I tekemap lidaship blong yumi, yumi mas tingbaot ol trust we ol pipol blong kaontri ia I bin plesem long hand blong yumi.

Anytime we Corruption hemi penetretem ol lidas blong kaontri ia, yumi stap blong witnessem lawlessness, weak administrereson, jallenges long independent judicial systems blong yumi mo evri key institutions blong kavman-blong dei. Long pisia, mi stap wathem blong alertem Honorobol Haos ia, mo nation Mr. Speaker se, as far aspossibil, yumi ol lidas blong neson ia, yumi mas wok strong blong putum bak trust blong ol Partners blong yumi, mo ol potential Investors, blong yumi save showem se, Rule of Law, Transparency mo Accountability oli ol norms we kaontri I stap upholdem ol taem. Mr. Speaker, hemi abaot taem yumi liv long ol Principles ia, mo stopem ol lip service notion long ol important principles ia. In short, yumi ol lidas I mas “walk the talk”.

Long pisia, mi wandem stressem ta se plante Corruption I stap happen long ol Kavman institutions, ol statutory bodies blong kavman, I mekem se, Commision of, enquiry I mas be appointed blo mekem investigation long ol institution osem. Fellow sitisens, mi stap kol long yumi evri wan I mas be
accountable long ol roles mo responsibilities blong yumi blong yumi no spolem nem blong hae Ofis blong yumi.

Vanuatu: Advocator for Peace Unity and Justice:

Hon. Spika,

Vanuatu as seen by other Pacific Island nesons olsem se hemi advocate blong ol stampa totok ia antap, mo long ol nara kara human rights voies blong colonized kaontris we I stap yet blong oli karem self- determination blong olgeta yet. While yumi stap promtem ol principles ia, yumi forkedem se yumi stap putum yumi yet long threat we bai hemi save affickem yumi long ol foreign intrusion or Attack. Mi rememba rightly se, Indonesia I bin warnem yumi two taem finis, long stand blong yumi for West Papua case.

Hon. Spika, mi putum totok irikam long Honorebel ia Hoes ia tued, blong haes i-likuk mo disad; blong pese long emphasis long Defense mo National Security Policy blong yumi. Aggression blong ol nara kaontri I save kosem yumi blong lusum Sovereignty blong yumi. Hemi bilif blong mi se kavman I mas gat wan Policy in ples kwick taem blong stat blong adressem national defence mo national Security strategy blong neson ia.

Unemployment Rate on the rise.

Hon. Speaker,

Issue blong Unemployment or fasin blong lukaotem work, hemi wan bigfala fakta mo hemi contribute long jalenj blong security blong neson mo welfea blong pipol blong yumi. Plante taem, taem we nid blong pipol ino fulfil, oli createm ol nara kara ways blo safaeem olgeta. Samfala hemi ol gudfala ways, samfala I save go agensem law mo ethics blo sosaeti, olsem we mi bin tajem finis antap. Long Vanuatu, yumi lucky from mama graon blong yumi I stap, we pipol I depend long hem blong save liv mo kakae long hem. Be size blo graon I stap semak, be populesen we I dipen lo graon ia I continue blo grow. Hemia I save kosem pipol blo oli muv blo lukaot ol opportunities lo nara ples.

Mi bringin i ka long Parliament mo long Kavman blong putum ol pese in ples blong aikem ol job creation Opportunities long ol youth blong yumi we I komplifim ol studies blong olgeta, mo olgeta we oli graduate long ol vocational centres blong yumi. Mi bri long ministera I stap start blong putum in ples ol nasondl Career polsi; blong aikem olgeta we oli jes graduate.

Half blong populesen blong yumi hemi ol yangfala mo pikinini we oli no kasem 20 yia yet. Populesen ia nao bae yumi need blo invest long olgeta blo oli
save buildimap kaontri long tumoro. Yumi need blong equipim olgeta wetem ol right skills, ol right tools, gudfala access long ol resources olsem finance, education, work, market opportunities, blo oli save contribute blong bildimap kaontri blong yumi. Sipos ol polisi blo yumi oli overlukim ol eria ia, bambae ol issue blong, crime mo security blo yumi mo welfare blo majority blo pipol I stap long kwesten mark.

SECURITY OF OUR NATURAL REOSURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

Hon. Speaker,

As much as impotent blong National Security hemi impoten, wetem ol sitisens blong hem, mi tekem laent tu de imalong addressem security blong ol natural resources mo environment blong yumi. Vanuatu’s resources hemi very impoten long development aspect blong hem so yumi mas start blong mekem sua se security blong ol resources ia hemi kam priority. Marine Resource blong yumi hemi bigwan, more too ol natural forests blong yumi. Bifore yumi exploitem olgeta, hemi gud yumi ol lidas I mas stap blong tekem measures blong putum ol kia policies blong kavanem security blong ol finite reosources ia.

Ol risoses ia oli ol means blong providem Food Security we hemi kam wan important agenda long ol global forums tudei. Olsem part blong ol Fundamental duties blong yumi, olsem we hemi stipulated long Constitution long Chapter 2, Part 2, Article 7; sub-section (d) hemi state olsem;

“to protect the Republic of Vanuatu and to safeguard the national wealth, resoureces and environment in the interest of the present generation and of the future generations”

Mi stap kol long Parliament ia blong lukluuk long ol security blong ol resources blong yumi, mo start putum in ples ol necessary policies mo ol laws we I save safeguardem ol viable resources blong kaonti ia. Hemi taemly se yumi mas start blong gat concern olsem wanem ol resources blong yumi hemi used.

Long saening blong Motalava Maritime Treaty long October long 2016, mi bin askem Kavman blong declarem se Vat Tade Area hemi shud kam olsem wan Marine National Reserve, we Kavman I nid blong legislem wan loa blong enactem kol blong mi ia. Small Rocky island ia, hemi populated wetem wild life, mo ocean around long area ia hemi rich long Marine life. Yumi ol lidas blong tedei, sapos yumi gat concern long ol pikinini blong yumi blong gat access long ol wild life populeson long anywea long Kaontri long tomorrow, yumi mas start blong act tudei, blong safeguardem ol resources ia.
THE VANUATU POLICE FORCES:

Hon. Spika,

Follem olgeta events we I stap happen long world tede, mo long region blong Pacific, mo tu long kaontri blong yumi hemi kam wan big concern blong mi long saed blong security.


Vanuatu Police Fos hemi under–staff.

Hon. Spika,

Mi stap relayem ol informeson ia long Honorable haos ia tudei, blong givim wan idea se ova long past 37 years, hemi luk olsem Nasonal Security blong yumi hemi no wan priority. wetem ol emol vocal stand blong Vanuatu long ol international Forums, mi bilif se Vanuatu kavman I mas start blong tingting strong blong strengthenem VPF mo VMF. Tudei Population blong Vanuatu hemi stap grow iko from 300,000, be taem yumi lukluk long namba blong ol pipol we I responsible blong holem taet pis mo security blong kaontri, hemi small tumas. Vanuatu Polis Fos anda long tri fala institutions ia oli under-staff.


Hon. Spika,

Mi stap kol long Parliament blong mekem sua se Vanuatu I mas appreciate ol latest development blong technology mo assistim ol VPF personnels blong oli equipped wetem ol know how; blong oli save adjust blong operet long ol new save we Informeson mo technology hemi stap develop long ol different levels blong olgeta; mo too oli save hao blong usum ol latest inventions blong developem Force Strategies.

Follem ol analysis blong mi, mi taenemaot se VTF I bin stap operate nomo long "Maintenance Mode"; be hemi neva bin given any incentive to develop follem trend blong ol leases we I stap happen tudei long world. Whilst evri kaontri
Follem ol analysis blong mi, mi faenemoat se VPF I bin stap operate nomo long “Maintenance Mode”; be hemi neva bin given any incentive to develop follem trend blong ol jenses we I stap happen tu dei long world. Whilst evri kaontri oli stap muv iko long fored wetem ol latest development long ol ammunitions blong olgeta, yumi stap operate wetem ol very old ammunitions blong yumi yet.

Hon. Spika,

Wanem taem nao bai yumi upliftim ol morale blong FOS membas blong yumi, blong oli save se kavman mo pipol I gat concern long ol wok blong olgeta. Hon. Membas blong Haos ia, mi stap kol long yumi ol lidas blong luk impotence blong Fos mo advancem ability blong olgeta wetem ol latest technological development mo save.

Long note ia Hon. Speaker, allowem mi blong mi acknowledgem ol kontrubutions blong ol donor Partners blong yumi especially we oli gat partnership Program wetem VPF. Recently mi wandem acknowledgem thank yu blong Vanuatu Kavman iko long Australia blong repair blong RVS Tukoro, mo Chinese Kavman long ol donations iko long Vanuatu Mobile Fos wetem ol equipment mo Vehicles.

Vanuatu Police Force are the Lowest Paid Officers in Vanuatu.

Hon. Speaker,

Wetem continuation blong rate of living long Vanuatu hemi continue blong ko antap, mi feel sympathetic wetem Vanuatu Police Force, we oli continue blong faithfully servem neson blong yumi, wetem low salary, mo semtaem struggle blong survive wetem family blong olgeta. Any kavman long eni kaontri we hemi concern lo pis, security, unity, loa mo Order, bambai oli mekem sua se ol loa enforcement Officers ia oli deservem wanem we hemi due long olgeta.

Mi stap kol long Honorbol Haos ia blong sapos ministry responsibol long GRT blong stap lukluk blong increasim ol benefits blong ol VPF members sapos hemi no stap lo process yet. Sapos hemi stap yet, hemi gud blong resem iko long level we hemi nid blo kasem. Long wei ia, yumi stap boostim morale blong wok blong olgeta, mo yumi save lukim real value mo service blong ol VPF blong yumi.

Hon. Speaker,
stap kol tudei blong yumi ol lidas responsible, blong mekem sua se budget blong VPF hemi inaf blong mekem opereson blong hem.

As mi klosem ol toktok blong mi, mi stap wandem remaendem yumi se Vanuatu hemi stap olsem wan united Republic. Long anytaem we Disaster I strackem Kaontri, kavman I mas step out blong givim assistance long olgeta we oli affected wetem ol necessary mo safe Products blong hemi no affectem ol affected pipol blong yumi. Reliable sources I revealim se anda long recommendation mo instrakson blong wan Ministri, sam saplaes we I kasem ol pipol blong Torres through long wan agency, hemi no healthy mo hemi contribute blong kosem sik long ol pipol blong Torres. Food mo wota relief too ino kasem olgeta yet, from oli stap mekem assessment yet. Mi kol long Kavman blong mekem sua se hemi treatim evri pipol sem mak, regardless long any ples we oli kamaot long hem.

Hon. Speaker,

Narafala consideration blong yumi nao se wanem kaen security nao bambai yumi givim iko long athletes we bambai oli kam long Vanuatu long 2017 Pacific Mini-Games? Yumi rere blong provaedem security we oli wandem or was we?

Wetem ol Concerns ia, mi tekem taem naoia blong announcem 2017 bill we bambai ikam bifo long Parliament ia:

1  Bill for the Supplementary Appropriation Act Bill No. of 2017
2  Bill for the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. of 2017
3  Bill for the Land Leases (Amendment) Act No. of 2017
4  Bill for the Land Reform (Amendment) Act No. of 2017
5  Bill for the Strata Titles (Amendment) Act No. of 2017

Hon. Speaker,

Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and distinguished invited Guests, mi tekem honour ia mo respect blong declarem se, tudei 1st June 2017, Fes Ordineri session blong Parliament blong Republic of Vanuatu hemi officially Open.
List of Bills/Liste des Projets de Loi
(As amended/Telle que modifiée)

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RESPONSE LONG TOKTOK BLONG H.E. WOMTELO B. LONSDALE
PARLEMEN HAOS, 01 JUNE 2017

THANKIO HON. SPIKA MO GOOD MORNING LONG HAOS!

- H.E Presiden blong Ripablik blong Vanuatu, Womtel Baldwin Lonsdale,
- Hon. Spkia blong Palemen, Esmon Saimon,
- Hon. Jif Justice, Vincent Lunabek,
- Hon. Lida blong Opposition, Ishmael Kalsakau,
- Hon. Deputy Praem Minista, Joe Natuman,
- Ol Hon. Minista,
- Ol Hon. Mamba blong Palemen,
- President blong Malvatumauri,
- Chairman blong Vanuatu Christian Council,
- Commissioner blong Police mo Commander blong VMF
- Ombudsman
- Excellencies mo memba blong ol Diplomatic Corps,
- President blong Vanuatu Council blong ol women,
- President blong ol Provinces,
- Lord Mayor blong trifala Municipal Councils,
- President blong Chamber blong Commerce mo industries
- Ol Lida blong civil society truaot long Vanuatu,
- Pipol blong Vanuatu,

Hon. Spika, long behalf blong ol Mamba blong Palemen wetem ol pipol blong Vanuatu, mi talem tankio long H.E. President blong Ripablik long toktok we hemi mekem long Haos ia mo bily se ol pipi blong yumi truaot long Vanuatu oli harem ol important concerns we hemi resem long saed blong situesen blogn Nasonal Security blong Nesen mo security blong pipol.


Nasonal Sekuriti blong Nesen wetem ol citizens
• **Inkris blong ol criminal activiti long Port-Vila mo long ol aeland**

Olsem happiest ples long wol, i sad blong luk inkris blong plande form blong criminal activiti: stil, trespass, marijuana, rape mo incest. Hemia hemi true mo ikat nid blong mentenem physical presence blong ol police ofisa long evri aeland blong Vanuatu. Tete, ikat plande building blong ol police long ol aeland we inokat ol equipment blong wok mo police ofisa insaed. Hemi nid blong mantenem presence blong Police long evri aeland, ol new ofis post oli mas operet wetem Police.

Situesen ino nidim Police nomo. I nid blong yumi gat ol responsibol citizens. Kavman i nid blong revium ol system blong hem:

- trough long education long home;
- trough long kastom education wetem role blong ol jifs;
- trough long role blong ol Lida blong Church;
- trough long respect blong ol citizens; mo respect blong family values

Last year, Kavman I amendem Penal Code blong inkrisim ol penalties.

Hon. Spika, kavman emi understandem increase blong population mo unemployment mo emi important blong addressem olgeta crimes we emi stap happen long kaontri we emi no wok blong Police nomo olsem olatem yumi stap tingting.

Tedei, Kavman emi wandem se every stakeholder’s oli mas participate blong addressem ol crimes long every levels. Olsem long Family, Village, Areas, Islands mo Provinces, mo long ol public institutions olsem schools.

Vanuatu Police Force long last yia 2016, emi bin organisem wan Community Policing Symposium we yumi bin witnessem plante stakeholders we oli bin attendem mo gat wan gudfala outcome we ol stakeholders oli confirm commitment blong wok wetem police blong addressem ol crimes throughtout long country.

Hon. Spika, Kavman, emi stap wok blong olgeta services blong Police emi mas be decentralize iko long olgeta remote area councils mo establishim wan strong close working partnership wetem ol stakeholders blong addressem olgeta dei to dei crimes.

• **Corapsen I afektem Jastis mo Sekuriti**

Hon. Spika, long poen ia, mi wandem talem se ino ol elected Lida nomo oli save be sabjek long corapsen but ol civil servant too oli save be corapt, ol managers blong ol statutory body blong Kavman too oli save be corapt.

Taem we wan Dipatmen blong Kavman o wan statutory body I mekem se sevis delivri i fasfas logn samfala pipol bat sevis delivri I hariap blong samfala nomo, o taem we wan Dipatmen blong Kavman o wan statutory body istap penem rule of law blong favorem wan person, wan kampani o wan grup blong person, i minim se ikat corapsen insaed long institusen ia.
Hon. Spika, yumi mas watchem good too ol investa we oli kam long kaontri. Ol genuine investa bae oli kam, oli folem evri process blong wok wetem ol law blong Kaontri mo oli invest. Ikat few we oli kam stap tantanem raon olbaot long Port-Vila, oli wandem luk evri Minista includim me as Praem Minista: Hon. Spika, yumi mas watch aot long ol kiaman investa ia from oli save lid igo long corapsen.

Why corapsen i happen taem we I gat ol required legislation mo regulesen?

➤ Problem blong education: either no enough or tumas blong save penem ol prosija;
➤ Problem blong low wages bat Kavman istap adresem naoaia trough long GRT;
➤ Ol institusen we oli responsibol blong adressem corapsen oli wik or oli nogat inaf resos or I nid blong enforcem olketa
  ❖ Auditor General i nidim wan new legislation;
  ❖ Hemi nid blong gat amendment long Law blong Ombudsman;
  ❖ Hemi nid blong Public Accounts i proposem wan legisesen long ol Parliamentary Committees.
➤ Kavman i setemap wan committee blong anit-corapsen last yia

Hon. Spika, mi agri se Kaontri mo espesial yumi ol Lida, yumi mas stap otaem long posisen blong showem se Rule of Law, Transparency mo Accountability oli stap osemen ol normal fasin blong work.

- **Vanuatu: advocate blong Pis, Uniti mo Jastis**

Mr. Spika, hemi true se ol responsibol Lida blong Vanuatu bae oli always advocated ol stampa toktok blong Pis, Uniti mo Jastis, mo bae oli tok agensem ol narafoa violation blong human raets long ol colonized kaontri we oli stap iet blong karem self-determination blong olgeta. Long poen ia, H.E. i mentionem posibol threat blong wan foreign instrusjon o atak mo hemi stap refealon warning blong Indonesia in relsen long stand blong Vanuatu long kes blong West Papua.

Vanuatu osemen wan independent mo sovereign State mo memba blong United Nations, hemi ratifaem ol Resolusens mo ol Conventions blong UN we oli related long human rights. Mo long saed blong decolonization, Vanuatu i adoptem afta independence Foreign Polisi blong “Decolonisation” we I legitimatem establishment blong Melanesia Speahead Group – MSG.

- **Unemployment rate i inkris**

Hon. Spika, I true se plande pipil, espesial yoli yangfala we oli liv long tufala town, Port-Vila mo Luganville, oli no save faenem wok, wok hemi wan sosol fakt se fasin blong no wok i contribut long jalenj blong sekuriti blong Nesen.

Plante taem, ol toktok oli stap talen se “sapos yu no kat wok, go bak long aeland long graon blong yu mo mekem laef blong yu”. Bat while graon hemi blong kastom owna:
1. saez blong graon blong ol bubu istap semak be Populesen i continu blong grow long evri dei;
2. evri man Vanuatu oli no gat name size blong graon mekem se samfala family oli nomo gat graon;
3. unnecessary dispute blong graon from selfishness i mekem pante manples I ronwe mo finem ples blong liv safely.

Hon. Spika, isiu blong unemployment ino bisnis blong Kavman hem wan, bat hemi bisnis blong everiwan we oli operate insaed long ol economic activiti, espesiali now ol stakeholder long praevet sekta we i includim ol Union. Kavman istap blong mekem ol required regulesen we oli favorem economic growth or fasin blong impruvum raning blong bisnis mo semtaem kivim employment opportunities.

- faciliteitem coming blong ol investa trough long VIP, visa waver, permanent visa;
- land isiu wetem amendment blong ol Law blong Graon;
- prioritsem ol investment long: infrastructure, tourism, sekta blogn agrikalja
- Retirement programme we kavman i introdusium last year mo hemi on I ko I should openem job opportunities

Ol narafala policies we kavman istap undertakem:

- Openenmap more market;
- Faciliteteim labour mobiliti trough long legislesen long Palemen, (Trade agreements)
- Impruvum access long education I kasem yia 10
- Inkrisim budget blong scholarships;
- Inkrisim ol diplomatic missions;

Bat emi nid blong impruvum role blong sam institusen blong adresseim employment blong ol youth:

- Ministry blong Youth
- Labour Department: i concentrate long RSE ted emo inomo adresseim role blong hem blong protection blong local labour blong ol Ni-Vanuat mo blong putum ol right wages. Tede me save admitim se I gat violation blong right blong workers long Vanuatu
- Immigration: Act i mas reflectem Policy blong kavman blong promotem investments long Vanuatu

Mi strongly apil igo long praevet sekta blong kam forward blong wok wetem Kavman blong openem market blogn labour. Vanuatu inosave depend nomo long Kavman blong kriemet ol job. Yumi kam trough finis long Comprehensive Reform Program (CRP) we long taem ia, yumi bin adoptem polisi blong "praevet sekta lead growth". Tede, yumi wandem luk se praevet sekta i continiui blong lidim economic growth long kaontri blong yumi. Taem Kavman I mekem pat blong hem, praevet sekta imas mekem pat blong hem.

Mi tekem opportunity blong talem tankio long private sector, long contribution blong hem.

**Sekuriti blong ol Natural Risos blong yumi wetem Environment**

H.E. I tokbaot too sekuriti blong ol natural resos mo environment. Hon. Spika, long poen ia, Ministry blong Climate Change wetem Ministry blong Agriculture oli gat finis in place ol laws wetem ol required
legislesen blong tekem kea long sekuriti blong ol risos olsem marine risos mo natural forest. Inomo problem blong law o regulesen, bat hemi problem blong yumi we yumi iusum ol natural risos witaot kea. Yumi gat ol law mo regulesen oli stap, yumi gat too ol kastom regulesen mo kastom praktis oli stap long wanwan aeland blong yumi blong protektem ol natural risos. Bat ol kastom praktis too oli stap loose. Atitud blong yumi ol man Vanuatu i mas change nomata Populesen blong yumi istap grow, from duty blong yumi hemi blong tekem kea long ol natural risos ia blong se fiuja generesen bae oli benefit long olketa.

Mr. Spika, Kavman bae i tekem kea long rikuest blong Head of State blong saed blong eria blogn Vat Tade blong istap olsem Marine National Reserve.

**Vanuatu Police Fos**

Hon. Spika, H.E. i tok plande long saed blong Vanuatu Plice Fos.

Vanuatu Police Force we emi establish under long Police Act Cap 105, emi responsible blong mentenem loa mo oda, mo security blong Ripablîk blong Vanuatu. Kavman since long past years emi bin recruit folem workforce renewal program blong Vanuatu Police Force we yumi lukim plante members oli bin retire mo kavman emi recruitim ol new members.

Kavman, emi understandem olgeta social mo economic development we emi stap tekem ples naoia long kaontri mo considerem olgeta disadvantages blong ol development ia we hemi save undermine rule blong loa mo security authority blong independent state ia.

- **Vanuatu Police Fos hemi under-staff blong servem pipol blong Vanuatu we numa blong hem i continiu blong grow.**


Government hemi luk save support blo ol International Supporting Partner Agencies olsem Vanuatu Australia Policing Justice Program mo Defence Cooperation Program long said blo providem assistance ikam lo Vanuatu Police Force mo blo participate lo ol International mo Regional Forums. Government hemi luk save mo continue blo sapotem ol bilateral mo multi-lateral Agreement we oli bin established follem ol mutual understanding and common interest blo ol Regional mo International Security Agencies wetem Vanuatu Police Force.

Government hemi acknowledgem se Vanuatu Police Force hemi gat olfala workforce mo hemi under staff. Hemi gat urgent need blo gat wan recruitment lo this year blo fulmap space blo ol retirees we oli leavim Force mo blo fulmap ol empty positions lo current approved structure we hemi stap.
Vanuatu Police Fos hemi lack risos development mo capasiti building mo hemi nid blong iusum ol latest technological development blong alowem hem blong operat efisiently mo confidently.

Hon. Spika, long side blong new technology, Kavman emmi putum ol priorities long wanem new technology yumi needim blong helpem wok blong Police mo yumi save sustainem.

Kavman through long support blong donor partners long Vanuatu Australia Policing Justice Program oli stap rolem aot Police Information Management system long olgeta Police stations throughout long olgeta main Centers mo Provinces blong yumi.

As mi stap toktok, Northern Command – Santo, Lakatoro – Malekula, Saratamata – Ambae, oli stap wok long Police Information System ia finis whilst wok istap ko hed blong Southern Command mo Isangel long Tanna.

Police Information Management System ia emi kivim long yumi accurate incidents mo registered crime we oli happen long olgeta areas blong yumi throughout long Vanuatu.

System ia emi kivim information blong olgeta crimes we oli stap happen long olgeta villages, areas, aelans mo Provinces. Emi givim number blong olgeta victims mo olgeta we oli mekem trabol oli blong wanem aelan, wanem religion, hemi wok or ino wok, include wanem part blong kaontri blong yumi igat ol wanem kaen crime emi stap happen long em.

Police Information Management System ia mbai emi providem accurate information long ol real mo crimes blong helpem kavman taem emi mekem decision lon loa mo oda mo security long future.

Hon. Spika, long saed blong ol equipments, Kavman emi bin tekem measures wetem support blong olgeta partners mo jenistem samfala equipment’s we Vanuatu Police Force emi stap usem blong mitim international standards or requirements. Olgeta equipments ia oslem:

1. Ol masket we yumi putum aot hemi ol Self Loading Rifles mo move iko long Famas,
2. Yumi gat wan Forensic Lab we emi stap certifyem ol finger prints we oli karem long crime scenes mo testify long court,
3. Olgeta trak we oli very helpful long taem blong humanitarian support during long disaster,
4. Repair mo maintenance blong RVS Tukoro mo RVS Turoroa,
5. Repair blo ol office buildings mo Staff houses lo Cooks barrack lo Vila mo Tiroas barracks lo Santo.

Kavman emi continue blong wok blong revivem olgeta equipments we emi need blong change blong mekem emi happen.
• **O1 member blong Vanuatu Police Fos mo olgeta we oli wok long Health oli the lowest paid officer long Vanuatu**

Long poen blong salary level blong ol police ofisa, Hon. Spika, Kavman through long Ministry blong Internal Affairs, Police Department mo Department blong Government Remuneration Tribunal oli just completem wan salary review blong Vanuatu Police Force.

Analysis emi compare wetem ol police services blong samfala kaontris mo narafala commissions, considerem nature blong work mo cost of living long Vanuatu blong mekem sure se olgeta members blong Police Force oli deservem wan salary structure we emi suitim nature blong wok blong olgeta.

Revised salary structure ia emi stap wetem Department blong Government Remuneration Tribunal blong oli finalisem blong ko through long few formal process before Kavman emi implementem.

Hon. Spika, Kavman, mbai emi kamaot yet blong officially announcem taem new salary structure blong Vanuatu Police Force emi kam into force.

Folem retirement package, Police should be capable blong recruitim ol niu memba blong Fos blong replacem olgeta we oli retire folem age mo olgeta we oli retire folem health problem.

Plan blong Kavman hemi blong recruitim required numba we Fos i nidim folem decision blong Police Service Commission.

Vanuatu Police Fos i nidim training: FAT i requirem Kavman blong invest long new equipment mo training.

Kavman hemi nid too blong letemap level blong Police School.

Police imas gat wan operating budget we i allowem hem blong stap more closer long ol pipol.

**Conclusen**

Long conclusion Mr. Spika, wetem limited resos we Vanuatu i gat, someone i save mekem wan observesen se sekuriti blong Nesen istap long wan vulnerabol situesen. Folem limited resos blong Nesen ia, ol sakesisif Kavman since independence kasem tede oli save afordem nomo blong faenensem cost blong Fos we istap naoa. However, hemi duty blong Kavman blong OLTAEM impruvum situesen mo environment we Vanuatu Police Fos istap operate long hem, bat Vanuatu ino save afford blong pem cost blong mentenem wan full flegde military armi bat istap long National Sekuriti Kaonsel.

Hon. Spika, givim taem long mi blong aknolejem ol kontribusen blong donor partners blong yumi from ol partnership program we Vanuatu Police Fos igat wetem olgeta. Help blong ol partners blong yumi i mekem se situesen blong Fos blong Kaontri i stap long stage we yumi lukim tede.

Hon. Spika, givim taem long mi too blong aknolejem ol kontribusen blong ol Jifs, ol Lida blong ol komuniti wetem ol Lida blong Church truaot long Kaontri long ol wok we oli mekem wetem Vanuatu Police Fos blong mentenem sekuriti, pis mo uniti istap oltae long Ripablik blong Vanuatu.
Hon. Spika, H.E. i kosem toktok blong hem wetem wan concern we hemi resem long saed blong distribution blong cyclone relief long Torres.

- Fasin blong saplaem ol non-healthy medicine ino polisi blong Kavman we mi lidim tede!
- Fasin blong mekem fulap assessment mo slowem distribution blong food mo wota relief ino polisi blong Kavman we mi lidim tede!

I true se assessment I tekem long taem. Bat Mr. Spika, mi wandem aknowledjem kontribusen blong ol dona partners long response we oli givim towards ol pipol blong Torres group we oli afekted by tropical cyclone Dona. COM I disaed finis blong Torres group, wan disaster zone.

Ol isius blong National Sekuriti we oli raised by President oli important but oli nidim resources. Yumi mas lukluk long revenue mo mekem ol necessary reforms folem ol challenges we oli raised today.

Mo long 2017 Pacific Mini-Games, Kavman bae I provaedem sekuriti olsem we Organizing Komiti bae I requirem, mo I putum suplementary budget long hem

Hon. Spika, tankio blong allowem mi blong respond long toktok blong H.E.
FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF DE 2017

MOTION No.: .............DE 2017

Moved by: Hon. Edwin A. MACREVETH
Member of Santo and First Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Seconded by: Hon. Bob LOUGHMAN
Member of Tanna

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF PARLIAMENT OF VANUATU TO INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU).

WHEREAS:

A. The Inter-Parliamentary Union has its Headquarter in Geneva and remains an inter-parliamentary organisation which works closely with the international organisation of the United Nations (UN) with which it shares the same objectives and supports the efforts;

B. The Inter-Parliamentary Union cooperates moreover with the regional inter-parliamentary organisations as well as the international inter-parliamentary organisations, inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations which share the same ideals.

C. The Inter-Parliamentary Union works towards democracy in various manner from political declarations to programmes designed purposely to strengthen parliament institutions, defends and promotes the human rights as a universal value, and builds partnership between men and women in politics.

D. The Inter-Parliamentary Union promotes contacts, coordinations and exchanges of experiences between the parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;

E. The Inter-Parliamentary Union gathers the parliamentarians of the whole world to seek solutions to the world and regional problems;
F. This Parliament is the main institution and remains the highest authority of the powers of State through which the people express themselves and the only authority to legislate;

G. The Standing Order 35 (1) states that «Any Member who wishes to move a written motion shall give notice thereof by delivering to the Clerk a copy of it signed by him and by one other Member acting as Seconder not less than three (3) clear days before the day on which he intends to move such motion ».

NOW THEREFORE, THIS PARLIAMENT HEREBY RESOLVES TO:

APPROVE

This Motion as Instrument that authorises it to become member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

SIGNATURE:

- Moyer: ..................................................

- Seconder: ..................................................

Date: ..................01/06/2017......................2017
OBJET : ADHÉSION DU PARLEMENT DE VANUATU À L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

ATTENDU QUE :

A. L'Union Interparlementaire dont le siège est à Genève est une organisation interparlementaire qui œuvre en étroite collaboration avec l'Organisation Internationale des Nations Unies (ONU) dont elle partage les objectifs et appuie les efforts ;

B. L'Union Interparlementaire coopère en outre avec les organisations interparlementaires régionales et les organisations interparlementaires internationales, intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales qui s'inspirent des mêmes idéaux ;

C. L'Union Interparlementaire œuvre en faveur de la démocratie de diverses façons allant des proclamations politiques à des programmes conçus pour renforcer l'institution parlementaire, défendre et promouvoir les droits de l'homme comme une valeur universelle, et édifier des partenariats entre hommes et femmes en politique ;

D. L'Union Interparlementaire favorise les contacts, la coordination et l'échange d'expériences entre les parlements et parlementaires de tous pays ;

E. L'Union Interparlementaire rassemble des parlementaires du monde entier pour rechercher activement des solutions aux problèmes mondiaux et régionaux ;
F. Ce Parlement est l’institution essentielle et la plus haute instance des pouvoirs de l’État par laquelle la volonté du peuple s’exprime et la seule habilitée à légiférer ;

G. Le paragraphe 1) de l’article 35 du Règlement intérieur stipule que « Tout député qui veut présenter une motion écrite en avise le secrétaire général en lui remettant une copie portant sa signature et celle d’un co-motionnaire au moins trois (3) jours avant le jour auquel il prévoit de la présenter »;

EN CONSÉQUENCE DE QUOI CE PARLEMENT DÉCIDE :

D’APPROUVER :

La Présente Motion comme Instrument qui l’autorise à s’adhérer à l’Union Interparlementaire.

SIGNATURE :

- Motionnaire :

- Co-Motionnaire :

Date : 01/06/2017 : 2017
29 Mei 2017.

Mr Leon Teter
Klak blong Palamen
Palamen Haos
Port Vila.

Dia Klak,

Written Question i go long Hon. Jotham Napat, Minista blong Public Utilities

Mi atajem long cover letter ia Written Question we mi wantem askem long Hon. Minista blong Public Utilities.

Mi stap putum Written Question ia fo lem Standing Order 32 blong Palamen.

Mi wantem askem Question ia long taem we Standing Order 23 i putum blong save askem ol Written Questions, we hemi long 16.00 kasem 17.00hrs long Wenisdei, long Wenisdei 7 Jun 2017, olsempart blong 1st Ordinary Session blong 2017.

Tankyu tumas.

Saen:

Hon. Gillion WILLIAMS
MP BLONG EFATE.
WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 1 OF 2017

I kam long: Hon. GILLION WILLIAMS, MP blong Efate

I go long: Hon. JOTHAM NAPAT, Minista blong Public Utilities

Long saed blong:

Seling bot “BLUE GOLD” we i slip i stap long rif blong Mosso Aelan

Mr Spika,

Kwestin blong mi hemi long saed blong Seling Bot o Yacht “BLUE GOLD” we i slip i stap yet long rif blong Mosso Aelan kolosap long Sunae Vilej stat long taem we TC Pam i sakem hem long ples ia long Maj 2015 kasem naoia.

I bitim 2 yia nao we Seling Bot ia i slip i stap long rif long ples ia mo hemi stap kosem damej long rif mo envaeronmen long ples ia mo maet long ful Havannah Harbour tu.

Ol jif blong Sunae mo Mosso oli raetem leta i kam long Gavman blong karemaot ship long ples ia.

Ol jif mo lida blong komuniti oli kam luk ol ofisa blong MIPU blong karemaot ship long ples ia.

Be kasem tede i nogat eni gud ansa blong Gavman long olgeta, mo i luk olsem ol ofisa blong Gavman i fraet blong dil wetem isiu ia.

So mi stap askem long yu Minista: plis yu eksplenem from wanem Gavman i no save mekem se ship ia i kamaot long rif ia, mo wataem mifala save ekspektem se Gavman bae i karemaot ship ia long rif blong mifala?

Saen:

20/05/2017
Hon. GILLION WILLIAMS
MP blong Efate.
UPDATED REPORT ON "SY BLUE GOLD"
General Information

Vessel Owner

- Joep Van Den Niewhenzen
- Was Arrested in Switzerland & brought back to Netherlands for trials
- Convicted of Bankruptcy fraud

Previous Registration – 17th April 2005 by Vanuatu Maritime Authority
Expired on 16th April 2010

Current Registration – 9th May 2011 by Department of Ports & Marine
Expired on 8th May 2016

So, the Vessel is now effectively “Stateless”

Relevant Legislations regarding wrecks

- Wrecks mentioned in Ports act, Cap 26,

19. **Obstructions to be removed**

Should any vessel or part thereof, timber or other thing be sunk or stranded in any port, the master or owner thereof shall upon the receipt of an order to that effect from the harbourmaster, and within such time fixed in such order, clear the port of such vessel, timber or other thing, and all parts of the same, and of the cargo or ballast of such vessel, and should the master or owner aforesaid fail to comply with such order the harbourmaster may direct the removal of such vessel or part of the same and cargo or ballast thereof, timber or other thing at the expense of the owner thereof.

20. **No person other than owner may destroy wreck without permission**

No person other than the owner shall destroy or demolish or interfere with any wrecked or stranded vessel or any part thereof within the limits of a port without the permission of the owner thereof or of the harbourmaster given under section 19.

- but per instructions from SLO,
  - Obtain permission from owner before boarding wreck or face trespass charges
  - Authorities cannot tamper with the vessel without consent from the Owner
Reviewed amendments being made to Shipping act, Cap 53

➢ Wreck Removal is being included in the amendments to Shipping act – Cap 53, so the Maritime Regulator may have jurisdiction over all wrecks within Vanuatu waters and;
   • Owners will be issued a deadline of 1 month to salvage or Vessel will be Confiscated, Salvaged & Sold

Reviewed amendments being made to Ports act, Cap 26
(to prevent eyesore wrecks at Iririki from happening again)

➢ Derelict /Stranded vessels within Port Limits will be issued a deadline of 1 month to move vessel or Ports will either;
   • tow vessel out to sink
   • sell to scrap metal

➢ Vessels anchored within Port limits to;
   • pay a daily anchorage fee
   • maintain an updated contact

➢ Introduce;
   • Mooring monthly fees
   • mandatory 6 monthly inspection regime

Progress on SY Blue Gold

➢ Have met with Land Owners & Council of Chiefs representatives (Chief Meameadola) on 5 separate occasions;
   • Three times at MIPU
   • Three times at Ports Conference room
➢ They were notified that the wreck was beyond Ports jurisdiction but shall remain as advisory role & liaison between relevant Government departments & potential Salvage companies
➢ Fisheries, Ports and Marine & Environment departments have also conducted inspections and in January 2016, consulted Mathew Grimley of Performance Marine to conduct an initial survey and develop a Salvage Plan - & was chased away by Villagers acting for the Owners Representative

They claimed Owners via his Representative had already engaged Mr Raoul Monthuel of Helmet diving Ltd with the assistance of Tuna
Fishing Tug to salvage the wreck - BUT THEY ARE ALSO WAITING TO BE PAID BEFORE THE TUG & SALVAGE DIVERS ARE DEPLOYED

- Have advised Chairman of Sunae Council of Chiefs, Chief Meameadola & his council to commence court proceedings for sue against:
  - Owner of Vessel
  - Local Representatives acting for the Owner

Last we heard was that Sunae Council of Chiefs was in liaison with a local law firm to commence proceedings

We continue to maintain contact