

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

8TH PARLIAMENT – 1ST SESSION – 10TH MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday 17 November 2009

NP/05/1/11

The Speaker took the Chair at 10:30 am.

Prayers were said by the Clerk.

The following Members were:

Present:

- Hon. Steve Abana
- Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka
- Hon. Peter J. Boyers
- Hon. Walter Folotalu
- Hon. Fred I. Fono
- Hon. Bernard Ghiri
- Hon. Seth Gukuna
- Hon. William Nii Haomae
- Hon. Francis B. Hilly
- Hon. Edward Justus Huniehu
- Hon. Shemuel Sam Iduri
- Hon. Sir Allen Kemakeza
- Hon. Mark Roboliu Kemakeza
- Hon. Clement Kengava
- Hon. Johnson Koli
- Hon. Daniel Enele Kwanairara
- Hon. Nollen Cornelius Leni
- Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo
- Hon. Varian Loñamei
- Hon. Manasseh Maelanga
- Hon. Samuel Manetoali
- Hon. Patteson J. Oti
- Hon. David Day Pacha
- Hon. Snyder Rini
- Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua
- Hon. Clay Forau Soalaoi
- Hon. Stanley Festus Sofu
- Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare
- Hon. Augustine Taneko
- Hon. Job Dudley Tausinga
- Hon. James Tora
- Hon. Isaac Inoke Tosika
- Hon. Milner Tozaka

Hon. Siriako Usa
Hon. Patrick Vahoe (Jnr)
Hon. Japhet Waipora
Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale
Hon. Francis John Zama

Apologies: Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto
Hon. Laurie Chan (Sick)
Hon. Toswel Kaua “
Hon. Martin Magga “
Hon. Selwyn Riumana
Hon. David Wote Sitai (Sick)

Absent Hon. Silas Milikada
Hon. Nelson Ne’e
Hon. Severino Nuaiasi
Hon. Trevor Olavae
Hon. Martin Sopage
Hon. Peter Tom

SPEAKER’S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker clarified a matter concerning an item on the Order Paper for today. This concerns the motion to be moved by the Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee; that is the last motion to be moved in today’s business.

Members will recall that on 17 July 2009, Parliament resolved that the Parliamentary House Committee inquires into and reports on matters raised by the member of North West Choiseul under Standing Order 25 relating to the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission’s Regulations, Legal Notice Number 45, which provided for a \$50,000 terminal grant to the spouse of a Member of Parliament.

The Committee tabled its report on Thursday 12 November 2009. On Monday 9 November, the Chairman gave notice of a motion that Parliament resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider the paper. That motion was put on the Order Paper for Friday 13 November 2009 but was withdrawn for reasons made known to Parliament by the mover on that day. The mover subsequently resubmitted the motion to the Clerk on the same day on which it was withdrawn and the motion was again put on the Notice Paper as required by Standing Order 31 (1).

Members will undoubtedly be wondering why this motion should be allowed on the floor of Parliament especially after the High Court has made its ruling on this matter. The matter that went to the High Court was a constitutional challenge partly on a matter that had earlier been referred by this House to one of its standing committees. Thus, although the High Court has give its ruling on the constitutionality of the matter, Parliament still reserves the right to hear back from the House Committee, as well as the rest of the Members, on that matter which was earlier referred to the Committee.

Today, Parliament and Members are provided the opportunity to discuss that matter. This does not in any way reflect on or undermine the ruling of the High Court and the Speaker urged Members to refrain from reflecting adversely on that ruling during the debate. Parliament is simply concluding its own business before putting the matter to rest.

The Speaker also wished to advise that this is not a private member's motion. Any business of one of the standing committees is business of the House. This is particularly so where that business stemmed from a referral by the House. In accordance with parliament's precedents, parliamentary business may be moved on a government business day. For this reason, and having consulted the Prime Minister, the Speaker granted permission for the motion to be moved today.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

By Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua – Prime Minister:

"The 'Partnership Framework between Solomon Islands Government and Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands' (***National Parliament Paper No. 39 of 2009***)."

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The Hon. James Tora, Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Service made a statement on the incident at Lawson Tama on Saturday 14th November 2009.

The following members asked short questions:

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| Hon. Edward Justus Huniehu | - | MP for East Are'Are |
| Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka | - | MP for Central Guadalcanal |
| Hon. Peter James Boyers | - | Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee and MP for West New Georgia/Vona Vona |
| Hon. Manasseh Sogavare | - | Leader of the Opposition and MP for East Choiseul |
| Hon. Sir Allen Kemakeza | - | MP for Savo/Russells |
| Hon. Walter Folotalu | - | MP for Lau/Mbaelelea |
| Hon. Japhet Waipora | - | MP for West Makira |
| Hon. Isaac Inoke Tosika | - | Leader of the Independent Group and MP for West Honiara |
| Hon. Siriako Usa | - | MP for North West Guadalcanal |

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Hon. John Patteson Oti, Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee made a statement regarding parliamentary business for Friday 20 November 2009.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS for the week ending Friday 20 November 2009 (further statement) was announced by the Prime Minister.

MOTIONS

Motion No. 9 (*Motion No. 8 – Resubmitted on 13/11/2009*)

The Hon. John Patteson Oti (Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee and MP for Temotu Nende) moved:

“That Parliament resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider National Parliament Paper No. 35 of 2009, Report of the Parliamentary House Committee on the Inquiry into the \$50,000 terminal grant to a spouse of a Member of Parliament.”

The Chairman delivered his speech.

Debate ensued.

The following members contributed to the debate:

Hon. Sir Allan Kemakeza	- MP for Savo/Russells
Hon. Japhet Waipora	- MP for West Makira
Hon. Peter James Boyers	- MP for West New Georgia/Vona Vona
Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua	- Prime Minister and MP for North East Guadalcanal
Hon. Edward Justus Huniehu	- MP for East Are’Are
Hon. Samuel Manetoali	- Minister for Lands, Housing & Survey and MP for Gao/Bugotu
Hon. Isaac I. Tosika	- Leader of the Independent Group and MP for West Honiara
Hon. Francis J. Zama	- MP for South New Georgia/Rendova/Tetepare

The Chairman delivered his speech in reply.

Question ***“That Parliament resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider National Parliament Paper No. 35 of 2009, Report of the Parliamentary House Committee on the Inquiry into the \$50,000 terminal grant to a spouse of a Member of Parliament”*** put and passed.

Parliament suspended at 12:50 pm until 2:00 pm.

Parliament resumed at 2:31 pm.

Parliament moved into Committee of the Whole to consider ***National Parliament Paper No. 35 of 2009, Report of the Parliamentary House Committee on the Inquiry into the \$50,000 terminal grant to a spouse of a Member of Parliament.***

The Committee considered pages 1 – 4.

Consideration of paper concluded, Parliament resumed.

The Hon. John Patteson Oti – Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee reported that National Parliament Paper No. 35 had been considered in Committee of the Whole.

The Hon. John Patteson Oti moved:

“That Parliament agrees to the proposals contained in the National Parliament Paper No. 35 of 2009.”

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua – Prime Minister moved:

“That at its adjournment today, Parliament shall stand adjourned until Friday 20th November 2009.”

The Prime Minister delivered his speech.

Debate ensued.

The following member spoke to the motion:

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare - Leader of the Opposition and MP for East
Choiseul

The Prime Minister delivered his speech in reply and moved:

“That at its adjournment today, Parliament shall stand adjourned until Friday 20th November 2009.”

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister moved:

“That Parliament do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

Parliament adjourned at 4:05 pm until 9:30 am Friday 20 November 2009.

Confirmed.

**Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Kenilorea KBE PC
Speaker of National Parliament**

Confirmed.

**Hon. Clement Kengava MP
Deputy Speaker of National Parliament**

17 November 2009