

(Questions without Notice by Deputy Opposition Leader -Sam Basil on 3/06/2015@11am.

MR Speaker, my question without Notice is directed to the Prime Minister and I want the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to take note and thank you Mr Speaker for granting me leave after you have sought clearance that my serious questions do not relate to pending court cases.

Many things happened during the height of the political impasse in 2011/2012. By association, I am guilty of some of those things but one of the most unthinkable one that I could not have approved nor participated in any manner or form is this one that I am going to raise. Mr Speaker, scandalous allegations were levelled against the Chief Justice by three young men from Pangia in the Southern Highlands.

The three men are namely Stanley Bavaro, Nick Lapa and Nathan Akiye. These three men claimed in their respective affidavits filed in Supreme Court matter number SCR. No 3 of 2011 that they saw the Chief Justice of our Country, Sir Salamo Injia meeting the then Minister for Public Enterprise Mr Arthur Somare at the public carpark of Ela Beach hotel at 2:00am on 4th November 2011.

Despite the fact that the Court had dismissed those allegations, what happened after that case is what had struck me and I believe the judiciary, this house and the people of PNG are not aware of it. Mr Speaker, I have concrete evidence to suggest that the three men were paid by the Prime Minister's office for lying under oath that they saw the Chief Justice and Mr Arthur Somare.

One of those men, Mr Nathan Akiye, who am told is a semi educated person, was paid K50,000 through Cheque# 160397 by the PM's Department for the purported provision of intelligent network services between late 2011 and January 2012. The payment was channelled through a company called "Siam Niugini Investment Limited" of which Akiye is a shareholder and director. My Questions therefore are:

1. Can the Prime Minister confirm knowledge of this payment by his office? [Note: His Chief of Staff and Chief Secretary signed on the FF3 Form authorising payment]
2. If so, can the Prime Minister advise this house and the people of PNG what sort of "special intelligent network services" these semi-educated men provided to his office apart from lying under oath and scandalising the Chief Justice of the country?
3. If the PM denies knowledge of the payment, can the PM direct the Attorney General to investigate this perjury at the highest level and bring the perpetrators to justice?
4. Can the Prime Minister assure this house and the people of PNG that such a scandalous attack on the judiciary for self-preservation does not occur under his watch as the PM?
5. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I seek leave to table the evidence in this Parliament. The Prime Minister in his response just a while ago, said he had no knowledge of the payment as usual, though he acknowledged that the recipient of the payment was a person he knows from Pangia. He said he would direct the Chief Secretary to write to Deputy Opposition Leader. With respect to answering question he said words to the effect:- "Everybody has the right to seek redress in court when they feel that they were unjustly punished for the wrong they did not do. That is not scandalising the court." Em mas pilim olsem ol man watchim em ya, though the question did not beg that answer!

Opposition press conference soon to release all documents of IPA Documents, Cheque Copy, Letters to BSP Bank and others.