



SHADOW MINISTER FOR TREASURY & FINANCE

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QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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PNG's Fake Free Health Care Policy hiding massive health care cuts.

Thankyou Mr Speaker,

My questions are directed to the Treasurer, on the false and misleading reporting on the 2018 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (the MYEFO) he released at the start of this month. My first set of questions in this Parliamentary Session will focus on his reporting of health expenditures.

Mr Speaker, the national government claims that everything is rosy and that revenues are coming in as expected. But, and this is a BIG but, if revenues are coming in so well, the opposition and the people of PNG are left wondering why are so many things being left unfunded? The 2018 budget was built on fake revenue forecasts which then led to promises of increased health expenditure. While we knew that the 2018 health budget still meant that funding per person in PNG had been massively cut from K217 per person in 2015 down to a

promised K167 per person in 2018, the Treasurer was not being honest, that some of the earlier health funding cuts would be restored.

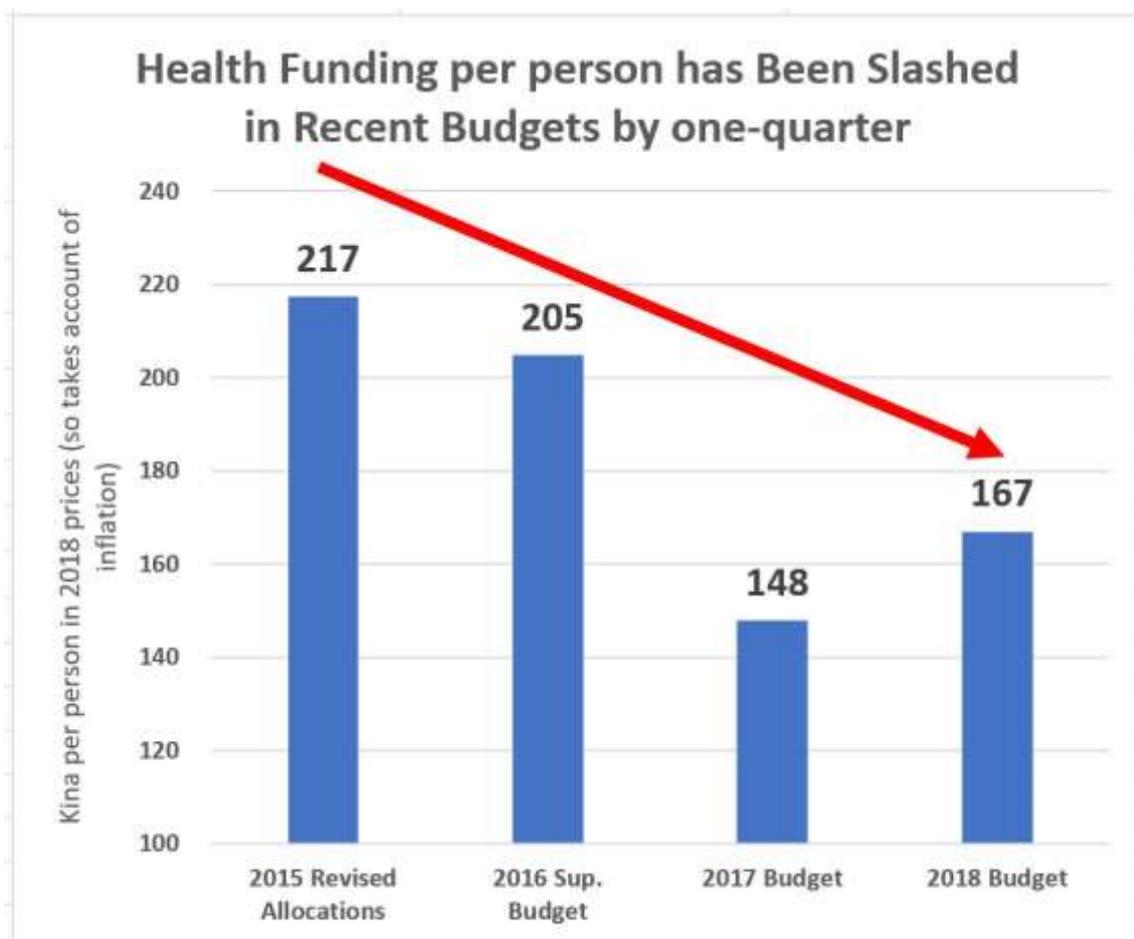
My Questions are:

- 1. Treasurer, why is it that the MYEFO shows that there has been no expenditure on, or even warrant release, for your so-called “free health policy”? We know that this is a fake policy, indeed the World Bank recently has made clear that it is not even a new policy as free primary health care has been official policy since Independence 42 years ago! but the problem is that we are not getting money out into our rural health centres. So Treasurer, why is it that the K20 million set aside for free health care has had no funds actually released or spent?**
- 2. Treasurer, in a very similar fashion, why is it that of the K50 million set aside in the 2018 budget for District and Rural Hospital nothing, not a single Kina, has been spent? Why is it that of the K30 million set aside in the 2018 budget for the ANGAU – Lae Cancer Unit, nothing, not a single Kina, has been spent? Why is it that of the K15 million set aside in the 2018 budget for the Wewak School of Nursing nothing, not a single Kina, has been spent? Why is it that of the K10 million set aside in the 2018 budget for the PNG Church Partnership Program which is already massively underfunded given its important health and education roles nothing, not a single Kina, has been spent?**

3. Treasurer, when will you admit to the people of PNG that the fake revenue in the 2018 Budget means that you made too many promises that you simply cannot keep such as all these broken promises in the health sector? And Treasurer, if the revenues were actually flowing in as you claim in the MYEFO and keep publishing in the newspapers, why aren't such trumpeted health activities being funded?

Thank you Mr Speaker!

HON. IAN LING-STUCKEY, CMG, MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR TREASURY & FINANCE



Figures from 2018 MYEFO pp 64 and 65

FUNDING FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT EXPENDITURE

The Warrant released is 27.0 per cent of the revised appropriation. The spending is just 78.0 per cent of the warrants authorised.

Table 22: Spending on Government Priority Projects 2018 (Kina, million)

Program/Project	Initial Appro.	Current Appro.	War. Auth.	Tot. Ex. + Commitment	Warr. (%)	Ex. (%)
Capital Expenditure Budget Totals	1,308.50	1,322.50	281.4	150.9	21%	54%
Infrastructure Development Grant	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
State Equity Fund (Agriculture and Others)	100.0	100.0	23.2	10.0	0.2	0.4
Court House Design and Maintenance	80.0	79.0	11.0	10.0	0.1	0.9
Port Moresby Sewerage Project	60.0	60.0	29.5	12.0	0.5	0.4
SME Funding for Non-Agriculture Activities	50.0	50.0	3.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
District/Rural Hospital Redevelopment	50.0	50.0	12.0	0.0	0.2	0.0

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Program/Project	Initial Appro.	Current Appro.	War. Auth.	Tot. Ex. + Commitment	Warr. (%)	Ex. (%)
Jackson's Airport Upgrade and Rehabilitation	50.0	65.0	22.0	18.0	0.3	0.8
West Pacific University	40.0	40.0	15.0	15.0	0.4	1.0
Special Interventions Program -Bougainville	40.0	40.0	17.0	14.5	0.4	0.9
Six Mile SME Incubation Centre	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Port Moresby Industrial Centre Development	30.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ANGAU - Lae Cancer Unit	30.0	30.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PMGH - Cancer and Heart Institute	28.5	28.5	4.0	4.0	0.1	1.0
Identity Card (with Biometrics)	23.0	23.0	6.0	2.2	0.3	0.4
Financial Management Project	20.0	20.0	7.0	6.0	0.4	0.9
National Land and Housing Program	20.0	20.0	7.0	0.9	0.4	0.1
People's Microbank	20.0	20.0	5.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Rural Jetties Program	20.0	20.0	4.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Civil Aviation Sector Development Investment Program (T2&3)	20.0	20.0	9.0	9.0	0.5	1.0
2020 Population Census Preparation	15.0	15.0	6.0	3.3	0.4	0.6
Oil Palm Small Holder Roads	15.0	15.0	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.5
Establish Provincial Cocoa Nurseries Project	15.0	15.0	6.0	5.9	0.4	1.0
Nursing College Infra. Rehabilitation	15.0	15.0	5.0	3.5	0.3	0.7
Teacher's College Infra Rehabilitation	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wewak School of Nursing	15.0	15.0	6.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Restoration and Development Grant	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lae-Nadzab Road (4Lane)	15.0	15.0	6.0	5.8	0.4	1.0
Kumul Submarine Cable	15.0	15.0	15.0	6.0	1.0	0.4
Technical and Business College Infra. Rehabilitation	12.0	12.0	3.0	2.1	0.3	0.7
Yekimbole-Kiniambu Road	10.0	10.0	5.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
PNG Church Partnership Programme	10.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Social Health Awareness Program	10.0	10.0	5.0	4.9	0.5	1.0
Kokoda Track Initiative	10.0	10.0	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.0