



MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY



Office of the Minister

MEDIA RELEASE
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Nukundj tells Namah this is not the time to play politics on a very sensitive health pandemic that is facing the nation.

Minister for Immigration and Border Security, Honourable Westly Nukundi Nukundj says the Opposition Leader should not be playing politics during this crucial time.

"In fact, the Opposition Leader has totally misunderstood my point of order during the Special Parliament Sitting last Thursday. The point I raised was not about him being present at Bewani during the Land Border Post Commissioning," he has totally misinterpreted my point.

"Minister for Immigrations was telling lies in Parliament when he said I was not in Bewani to receive him to Open the Bewani Land Border Project when in actual fact, my Governor and I personally led the convoy from Vanimo to Bewani and to my village where we had lunch. I even killed him a huge cassowary (MURUK) as a sign of respect." Mr Namah said in a statement that has gone viral on social media.

Minister Nukundj said "I implied in my point of order that the Opposition Leader was never on the border himself. I did confirm this information while on the ground at Bewani and then at Green River myself while opening the new Border Posts respectively at different times "

"But in politics Belden Namah should take this as constructive. The issue is on border is not personal. Border is a legacy issue."

"I didn't say he was not there on the opening of Bewani post." No.

How do we relate those arguments to the intent of the debate? Personal or National?"

The opposition leader has seen fit to belittle me and the Government, labelling me a liar in a statement that has gone viral on social media.

"Papua New Guineans are good at criticizing leaders and this is no time for Belden Namah or any Papua New Guinean to criticize the Government.

In fact, Papua New Guinea was the first Government in the Asia-Pacific to react to COVID19 as early as January ,2020 when it was first reported in China and spreading to other countries.

Minister Nukundj said the Opposition leader should appreciate the quick action by the Marape-Steven Government in January to help prevent COVID19 becoming a major health problem for the country.

"His assumption was that the Government did not do anything on the Borders to control COVID19. My point is that his statement was wrong because the Government was the first to respond through my Ministry where I placed a ban on all flights from Asia on 28th of January followed by the subsequent Government interventions where we placed restrictions on Land Border Posts and centralizing point of entry on seaports and airport."

"If the government did not take the immediate preventative measures, imagine where PNG would be now with Covid-19. Give credit where it's due"
Minister Nukundj said.


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WESTLY NUKUNDJ NUKUNDJ, MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY