

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, RELEASE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

271. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

I refer to section 83 of the Criminal Code, which states -

Any public officer who, without lawful authority or a reasonable excuse -

- (a) acts upon any knowledge or information obtained by reason of his office or employment;
- (b) acts in any matter, in the performance or discharge of the functions of his office or employment, in relation to which he has, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest; or
- (c) acts corruptly in the performance or discharge of the functions of his office or employment, so as to gain a benefit, whether pecuniary or otherwise, for any person, or so as to cause a detriment, whether pecuniary or otherwise, to any person, is guilty of a crime and is liable to imprisonment for 7 years.

In relation to the minister's ill-informed, politically motivated decision to release private and privileged information regarding the Leader of the Opposition, has she obtained any unqualified, irrefutable legal advice on whether she has breached section 83 of the Criminal Code?

Mr E.S. Ripper: Is there such a thing?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

That is right; is there such a thing as unqualified, irrefutable legal advice. I have discussed this informally with a number of lawyers. They are all, frankly, laughing at the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's suggestion. As members are aware, I had discussions with the Commissioner of Police on this matter after the interview on the Paul Murray show. These questions were asked at the start of question time. Has the Deputy Leader of the Opposition run out of questions?

Mr P.D. Omodei: I have a lot more questions if the Speaker will let me ask them.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have already answered these questions right at the start of question time. Maybe members of the opposition do not listen, maybe they do not know what they ask and maybe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has picked up the first question again. I do not know, but would the Leader of the Opposition like to tell us the reading he blew in the driveway?

The SPEAKER: Question time is now over.