

NEW METRORAIL PROJECT - TIMETABLE AND BUDGET

**146. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the minister's gross mismanagement of the project and the massive cost to taxpayers -

*Point of Order*

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE:** This is supposed to be a supplementary question and not assertions about the minister. The Leader of the Opposition has clearly made an assertion and not asked a question.

**The SPEAKER:** It is clearly correct that a supplementary question is a question. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition ask it.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr P.D. OMODEI:** Will the minister support my call for the contracts and the cost blow-outs to be referred to the Public Accounts Committee for proper scrutiny?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

We took the precedent of tabling seven boxes of contractual documents.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** What are you afraid of?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The opposition is afraid of doing some work. Its members demanded the documents. We gave them seven boxes of documents and they walked away because it was too hard. We had someone who knows about management of contracts review our performance. The Auditor General looked at the project and the contract management and gave us a clean bill of health. We then asked the Auditor General - Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** They have no capacity whatsoever to forensically examine the documents that we gave them the opportunity to look at. The Auditor General was invited back by the chief executive officer of the Public Transport Authority and he declined, no doubt because he was convinced that the contract management on the project is second to none.