2015 – The Year of Crossing Over to the Other Side

By

The Speaker of the National Parliament

Member of Finschhafen:

HON. THEODORE ZURENOUC, MP

On behalf of the staff of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea people, the people of Finschhafen and my family, it is indeed my greatest pleasure to sincerely extend to you all my very best wishes for an exciting all.

2015: End of Forty Years - Beginning of a New Era

The year 2015 marks a significant period of our Nationhood. The year marks the end of a 40 years period of the PNG constitutional from Australian rule in September 1975. Generationally, 40 years period speaks of the END of one generation and the BEGINNING of a new one. It denotes passing on of leadership baton by the older generation to the new. It also speaks of a period of preparing the succeeding generations to reach their full potential and maturity. At age 40, physical, mental and spiritual maturity is said to have reached its peak and succession begins.

Politically, the period signifies a timeframe to engrate a people into nationhood. The story of the people of Israel under the leadership of Moses, wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, is the classic case in point. The story is loaded with principles which can be learned and applied in any nation that is in the process of enfranchising a people.

The wilderness or desert experiences in the said time frame, for the people of Israel, symbolise a condition for testing of values and shaking off of the unwanted. It is a period of moulding and shaping of a people into a new nation out of a colonial influence and mindset. It is a period of perfecting a people through the crucibles – burning sun and violent desert storms, ultimately to instill into them integrity, durability, character and resilience – to form a nation out of a raw people.

The forty years period was a timeframe when new ideas that directly counteracted those of Egypt were crafted, tested and shaped into norms, cultures and laws that would govern a new nation. It was a period in which ideas and philosophies (Babylonian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Greek philosophies) that ruled the world, were dissected critically and mercilessly. It was a period of reckoning – a period of regaining sanity and renewed strength, and consciously redefining a definite moral and philosophical direction for a new Nation after 400 years of tyrannical empirical rule. Slavery and colonial mentality, ingrained into the people, over 400 years of colonial rule, had to be purged and cleansed during this 40 years period through the hostilities and encounters of the wilderness. So essentially, it is a period of pruning, perfecting and preparing a people to come face-to-face with the Grand Philosophy of Creation, the ultimate God.

The END of the wilderness period essentially meant a BEGINNING of a NEW ERA. The end of this period was a clear sign of a formation of a tribal people into an emerging Nation of valour and power. A new ideological foundation for a new Nation was now truly established, which set new directions in rigid contrast to those of Egypt and the surrounding nations. The signs of a new era were signified firstly by passing of leadership baton from Moses to Joshua. So the generational leadership shift is clearly visible. Second sign of a new era is the - crossing of the Jordan River to the other side- to the land of milk and honey. It also meant driving out the inhabitants, demolishing the pagan gods, destroying the high places, distributing the land and dwelling in the land. It meant taking full control of their promises.

In other words, the past 40 years period essentially meant PREPARATION for the new beginning - to crossover and takeover decisively, precisely and aggressively. New beginning means a sign of a nation of Israel had crafted a philosophical foundation, symbolised by the Ark of the Covenant. This was the fundamental statement of a unified force of their faith, from which inspiration, strength, and their reason for existence were drawn. From this foundation - moral, civic, ceremonial, political and economic laws and principles, sprang from. Politically, they were inspired and led by the presence of God in their faith in their God. A nation was established in 40 years on a new foundation. The new beginning meant, it was now time to implement the principles learnt and developed over the 40 years period.

Reflection and Challenges

At the eve of our Nation’s 40th independence celebrations, I would like to reflect on our yesteryears and challenges ahead. And further draw some lessons from the above story to help us enter into our new beginning.

When I look back, I see a Paradise – a “green island of gold, floating on a sea of oil, powered by gas”. Our forest cover is among the largest carbon sinks in the world. It absorbs fumes from the industrialised world and in turn releases and feeds the world with clean oxygen, an immense contribution to the survival of the world’s population. Our faith leader. Our forest, agriculture and fisheries combined, offer enormous amount of resources that can sustain our nation for decades without exploiting our geophysical resources. Our land is elegantly magnificent in every sense and dimension that its potential ranks among the top in global investors, forestry and agriculture sectors alone. This is our Promised Land. Our Paradise, however, ironically, we remain yet so poor. This is the grand paradox of our 40 years history, which must be resolved as we welcome the new beginning of another 40 years ahead.

How can we resolve this paradox? The processes of transforming these resources into wealth must be regained and retained by Papua New Guineans. As we begin another 40 years cycle, we are expected to own and develop our own resources. Why should our people’s mining companies? What is stopping us from developing our own resources by ourselves? Their idea have we inherited to think that Papua New Guinean Companies cannot own oil, gas and mining operations. The restrictive colonial effects on our people had been detrimental. If modern Israel can turn deserts into farmland, what justification do we have to think that we cannot turn our nation into the food-hub of the Pacific? During my recent visit to Israel, the Israeli farmers and the government officials reminded me that PNG can be the agricultural hub of the region. Why is it that we cannot do it? We must recall our engineers and scientists working in other nations to return. We must reorient our own human resource into a dedicated workforce, and tap into the unmatched potential we have and manage our own destiny.

Our resource ownership and extractive regime must be radically transformed as we farewell the past era and welcome the new beginning. It must not be a period of business as usual. Some influential people in our country have been challenged by the spirit of Israel, which divided seven nations which occupied their Promised Land. We have seven distinct systems in which our people are trapped, which we must take complete control. These systems are (1) the civil system, (2) the political system, (3) the education system, (4) the banking systems, (5) the media, (6) the entertainment world, and (7) the religious systems. Our crossing over must be to take over these systems. As we begin the new era, these systems must be radically reformed to reflect our belief and convictions – to be in charge of these systems for our full benefit.

In correct sense of our national identity, our nation is the United Tribes of Paradise. So why should we suppress our individual identity come from? In our search for our true identity, we have discovered that the name “Papua New Guinea” was imposed upon us by others – outsiders – which has serious derogative connotations. “Papua” is a Malay word meaning, black people with fuzzy air, flat nose, round head and brown eyes who are placed at the bottom end of the spectrum of the social spectrum. It has nothing to do with the people of the Central Province and the rest of the provinces identified by this name. “Guinea” has connotation associated with “small pigs”. The philosophy behind the name is obvious – uncivilised, savage, uneducated, backward, underdeveloped, low class, kanakas, cannot do anything, nothing to do, please get on. Our name is a misnomer referring to a country of Africa and new ones discovered in our world of the past. We were given the name “New Guinea”;

The term “KIAIP” (referring to a Colonial Administrator) was carefully, intentionally and thoughtfully crafted to capture the spirit of suppression, control and exploitation. KIAIP does not mean anything in any known languages. It is an acronym in English language which means – Keep Indigenous Always Primitive or Poor (K-I-A-P).

We have adopted and associated ourselves with a mindset that has kept us in prison for the last 40 years.

Ending of the past 40 years calls for putting an end to a colonial second-class-class mindset. Sheds away our colonial bondage that must dictate our national policy direction any longer. Beginning of the next 40 years calls for a radical emancipation from ruling ideas associated with suppression, control, manipulation and ultimate exploitation which have pervaded the seven systems I have alluded to earlier. The new beginning of this year calls for a radical transformation of these systems that influence our governance. We must challenge the philosophies that rule the world today. It is extremely imperative that every ruling and dominating idea must be put to test. We must refuse ways where necessary and reform them when we can as we embrace the new beginning. Resource ownership, development and distribution laws must be redefined if we are to be in control of our own destiny.

National Unity - Our National Treasure

Now let me draw our attention to our most priced possession – NATIONAL UNITY – our National Treasure. We are a nation of a thousand tribes and languages who subscribe to “unity in diversity”. Our boards and groups represent the many provinces located across the country, in that we are a nation made up of many different tribes and languages. We are a nation where we do not consider ourselves to be a nation of the South, and a nation of the North. We are a nation where we do not consider ourselves to be a nation of the East, and a nation of the West. We are a nation that has serious self-identity in that we are neither the traditional past nor firmly rooted on the modern present. We are a fluid society of great cultural, social and religious forces which are already negatively affecting our survival as a unified nation.

In this fusion of competing ideas, I see our sons and daughters on the crossroad of transition. Our people’s collective sense of origin, identity, purpose and importantly moral consciousness, is being eroded. Consequently, I see our people, our boys and girls wandering in confusion. Today’s leaders have an enormous obligation to restore purpose and hope to our people. After 40 years, as with the people of Israel, we must resolve in our heart to take a new direction – to ascribe to common values on which we must anchor our nation on today and into the future.

Looking back our trail last 39 years, there is no clear foundation on which our nationhood rests. We call ourselves a Christian Nation but our government institutions and systems are very much influenced by the colonial influence of the West, where greed and corruption have taken a foothold. We have not ascribed to a ruleing idea that can underpin our moral consciousness – an idea from which we can derive our values, inspire our motivations and refine our existence. This, in my conviction, is the root cause of a dilapidating social, economic and moral conditions. We are a society at the crossroad of the past and the present. We are a society without a firm ideological shape or form. We have reached a state where we are neither of the traditional past nor firmly rooted on philosophies of the modern present. We are a fluid society of great cultural, social and religious mix, which provides a dangerous recipe for social disintegration. The consequential product of such a recipe is a self-inflicting society void of moral consciousness, firmly grounded by GN and corruption. In this moral vacuum, alien entities in collaboration with corrupted local capitalists are having their field days. The Nation must break free from such a spirit of unholo union among local themselves and with foreigners if we are to be emancipated from the grip of corruption and moral decay.

Turning 40 years this year provides a challenge as well as an opportunity to repossess our nation from such a condition. As new generation leaders, our utmost responsibility is to do our part in offering our nation a secure future. As we begin the journey, we must see differently. We must define the type of society we want in next 40 years, today. We must see the dawn of a new Nation with the perspective of the 2050 Vision – wealthy, healthy, wise, intelligent and the prosperous nation. However, vision alone is not enough to sustain us. We must demonstrate our commitment by our actions towards the ideological foundation which must shape, control and influence our attitude. Attitude speaks of a reformed and reinvigorated mindset. With a refined attitude, we can then chart our development path.

Christian Faith – The National Foundation

I have, therefore, celebrated the New Year with optimism for more purposeful and most fulfilling year of leadership. We must put an end to the old year and begin a new year. We must approach to this new year as a time of nation-in-making through bitterness, suffering, trials and confusion. On the eve of entering the Promised Land the most significant and solemn decisions were undertaken. We must learn from these lessons and make no mistakes as we prepare to enter into the new era. The children of Israel, led by the New Leaders, renewed their covenant with their God. This was a conscious act that signified the establishment of their Nation on a firm
When I look back to the restoration and reformation initiatives which we have undertaken at our National Parliament, National Unity and Identity Project, I have complete confidence that we are trailblazing a noble path in laying a firm foundation for PNG to enter into a new era of unparalleled growth and prosperity. It is my conviction that our National Unity and Identity Project which we initiated under the Parliament reform agenda, will point to this priceless heritage, and make PNG stand out among the nations of the world.

To symbolise our decision and to renew our commitment after 40 years, it has happened at the Bank of the Jordan River in Joshua’s time, the National Identity and Unity Monument will be erected in the Grand Hall of the National Parliament of PNG.

The Monument consists of six (6) distinct components. The Foundational Layer will be constructed of a most precious stone signifying the WORD OF GOD – the BIBLE. This layer symbolizes the ultimate Foundation on which our Nation stands. As it is written:

“For no other foundation can anyone lay that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Nations built on this rock will stand. Nations constructed on other materials will utterly fall and disintegrate into nothingness. If the Lord does not build a Nation, the builders labour in vain. Jesus said: “I will build my people (nation) on this rock and gates of hell will not prevail against them”. (Matthew 16:18).

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.

On top of the Foundation Layer symbolising the Bible, will be laid the Constitution Stone symbolising rule of law drawn from the Ancient Book – the Bible. If the Bible established our National Foundation and Spiritual Unity, then our Constitution is responsible for our Legal Unity and National Sovereignty. The Bible and the Constitution are the first and second layers respectively declaring the essence of our National Identity (who we are) which must run through our National Psyche and influence our nationalistic consciousness for years to come. Our children and their children and the generations to come, will then be reminded of their identity and origin, especially in a confusing world, controlled by evolutionist, atheistic and humanistic worldviews which deny the existence of God, Deity of Christ and the origin of creation.

The Third Layer will symbolise Leadership, which will be dedicated to the Leaders of our Nation. National Leadership - Representing and uniting the Leaders (of both past, present and future) at every level Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare’s National Declaration Prayer will be inscribed into the front face of the Leadership Stone. This is the Leadership prayer that connects us to the true and only God. On top of the Leadership Layer (Stone) was laid the Unity Layer which symbolises unity for the first time, the Deity of Christ and our World. On top of the Unity Layer symbolises the Unity of Jesus Christ, as declared by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:3, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; for the poor is his neighbour.” If we follow this philosophy and ideological Foundation, greater than, or parallel to this foundation in the entire universe.