

**FIRST DAY**

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**Tuesday 3 September 2024**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## **FIRST DAY**

**Tuesday 3 September 2024**

The Parliament met at 2 p.m. according to the Terms of Resolutions of 5 June 2024.

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair and invited the Member for Okapa, **Honourable Saki Soloma** to say Prayers:

‘Tenkyu, Papa God long heaven. Yu bikpela God, mipela i givim biknem, glori na hona igo long yu. Yu stap na olgeta samting em i stap, na mipela i stap long leg bilong yu.

Papa God mipela olgeta lida i stap insait long dispela honourable Haus mipela wokman bilong yu. Mipela wokman bilong yu long sevim pipol bilong mipela long pisikol sait. Na i gat wokman bilong yu stap, we ol save sevim ol pipol bilong mipela long spiritual sait.

Papa God dispela taim mipela kam bung, yu givim mipela sampela taim long stap long ples na mekim ol sampela wok bai mipela mekim long sevim ol pipol bilong mipela. Na nau yu bungim mipela gen wan more taim long dispela honourable Haus long sindaun na toktok long bringim gutpela law long servim ol pipol bilong mipela.

Papa God mi putim ol Opposition na Government membas kam long han bilong yu. Papa God, mipela wokman bilong yu. Insait long hat bilong mipela, Papa God yu save long bel na tingting bilong mipela. Mipela i stap long mekim wok bilong yu na givim biknem na glori na hona i go long yu long servim ol pipol bilong mipela olsem cheap servant bilong ol. Wantaim dispela, Papa God mi tok tenkyu. Amen’

### **RETURN OF WRITS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to announce that I have received the Return to the Writs, which His Excellency the Governor-General had issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024, for a by-election of a member to fill the vacant office of the Member for Maprik Open Electorate following the death of late Member, Mr Gabriel Kapris.

And that by the endorsement on the writ. It was certified that Mr Libet Kapris was duly elected as Member for Maprik Open Electorate.

(b) For a by-election of a member to fill the vacant office of the Member for Sohe Open Electorate following the declaration of the National Court in a court of disputed returns.

And that by the endorsement on the writ. It was certified that Mr Henry Johns Amuli was duly elected as Member for Sohe Open Electorate.

**NATIONAL COURT ORDER – MADANG OPEN –  
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that on 22 August 2024, the National Court ordered that:

(1) Leave is granted to the plaintiff to withdraw their notice of motion filed on 3 July 2024.

(2) Until further order, pursuant to Order 16, Rule 3(8)(a) and (b) of the National Court Rules and after grant of leave in favor of the plaintiff by the Supreme Court in appeal SCM No.26 of 2023 to apply for judicial review over the first defendant decisions made on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. And pursuant to *Section 155(4)* of the *Constitution*:

**02/01**

(a) the above-referred decisions of the first defendant are stayed; and

(b) as the proceedings of the first defendant have been completed, any suspension of the plaintiff pursuant to *Section 28(1)* of the *Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership* deemed or otherwise is stayed; and

(c) for the avoidance of ambiguity, until further orders, the defendants are restrained from not permitting the plaintiff to serve as the Member for Madang Open Electorate in the National Parliament.

**SUPREME COURT DECISION – VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE –  
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, according to the *Standing Order* of the Parliament House, it provides for the use of three languages and they are Motu, Pidgin, and

English. So, Honourable Members, I would like to inform the House of the *Supreme Court* decision that was handed down. In the last Parliament sitting there was a disagreement between the Government and the Opposition over the VoNC Motion against Prime Minister James Marape and the Opposition Leader and Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough Honourable Douglas Tomuriesa, took the decision of the Clerk and the Speaker to seek the court's interpretation. The decision of the Court was out and we are aware of it.

The *Supreme Court* has handed down its decision and it didn't mention that the Private Business Committee and I as the Speaker was wrong or right. The court has made its ruling based on the independence of the work of the Parliament and it won't come into the process and procedures of the Parliament. Now it is clear and I am very happy with the court decision and I believe the Opposition is also happy.

Therefore, in the last Parliament, I told the Parliament and the rest of Papua New Guineans that if the Supreme Court found out that the Private Business Committee and I were wrong, I would tender my resignation as the Speaker of Parliament. However, the court didn't rule on tendering my resignation so today I didn't come with the resignation letter. A lot of Papua New Guineans are watching and they want me to resign so I want them to know that I will not resign and remain as the Speaker of the Parliament.

Is that alright?

*(Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!)*

**Mr SPEAKER** – I also want to tell the Parliament and the citizens of our country Papua New Guinea who are watching that according to the Government's advice, the Parliament will sit for two weeks.

Therefore, I want to advise the Clerk's office that if the Opposition is ready and moves a Motion of VoNC by 10 o'clock tomorrow, I will entertain it. The people of our country want to see how we receive the VoNC Motion and process it. It must come and the Private Business Committee will deal with it at 12 o'clock. When all is in order then we will put it on the Notice Paper on Thursday. Thereafter, we will come after seven days and deal with the VoNC Motion.

I believe the country wants this VoNC Motion to take place so I am calling my leaders on the Opposition to bring a new VoNC Motion by tomorrow 10 a.m. because Parliament will sit for two weeks.

With that, I also understand that the Provincial Member for Gulf Honourable Chris Haiveta who is also a member of the Private Business Committee and we have no intention for him to resign and change. He can still remain as a member of the Private Business Committee and make a good representation of the Opposition

**03/01**

And regarding the concerns raised by the Committee in the last sitting he knows and when it's in the Notice Paper then everything will be right to be presented. That's the assurance from the Chair to you all.

Thank you.

### **CERTIFICATION OF ACTS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER** - Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that I have in accordance with *Section 110* of the *Constitution* certified two of the Legislations made by the National Parliament. A list of these *Acts* will appear in today's Minutes of Proceedings:

- (1) *Constitutional Amendment (Court Restructure) Law 2024.*
- (2) *Essential Services (Amendment) Act 2024.*

### **ENTRANCE OF PALL-BEARERS CARRYING THE CASKET OF THE LATE MEMBER HONOURABLE SIMON DUMARINU**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members I wish to inform the Parliament that the pallbearers carrying the casket of the late Honourable Simon Dumarinu MP, Member for Central Bougainville Open electorate will be admitted into the Chamber

Motion – That the Pall bearers be admitted into the Chamber – agreed to.

*The casket of the Late Honourable Simon Dumarinu was brought into the Chamber by Pall-bearers to lie-in-State.*

**04/01**

*(Bag pipes playing)*

### **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Mr JAMES MARAPE** (Tari-Pori – Prime Minister) – I move –

That this Parliament expresses its deepest regret and sorrow at the death of the late Honourable Simon Dumarinu, the Member for Central Bougainville electorate on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 2024 and places on record its appreciation for his voluntaries public service and we want to tender our profound sympathy to his family, the people of Central Bougainville and Bougainville as a whole for his untimely passing and in the moment of bereavement.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Prime Minister, sorry, the Chair interrupts you... *(feedback and low audio)*

Honourable Members, if you have mobile phones near the system, please remove them.

**05/01**

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, friends, family and the people of Bougainville, the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the Regional Member of Bougainville, and all Papua New Guineans gather today to celebrate and mourn the life and legacy of a remarkable individual, the Honourable Fr Simon Dumarinu, the Member for Central Bougainville. His passing leaves a void in our hearts but his selfless dedication to serving others will be forever arched in our memories.

As a Catholic Priest, Fr Simon embodied the spirit of service, compassion, love and he brought this same spirit into his public office touching countless lives and making a lasting impact on his community.

Mr Speaker, two days before he passed, I had an opportunity to meet him in my office. He spoke of his great love for Bougainville, Central Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and he also spoke of his continuous desire to serve in between all of us. I replied to him, “Leader, you carry a sick heart because it was known to me that he had a medical procedure in his own heart and I asked him to take it easy in his work”. But, like many of you leaders who are here

in this Parliament; at the peril of our own lives, we shoulder our own and we continue to work on.

He said, he was going to Bougainville the next day and we were to meet on the Friday upon his return but little did I know it was his last time and I would like to place on record our Government and Parliament's appreciation of his great service to both Bougainville and to our country.

He was a senior member of the SDP and I want to pass our profound sadness to Governor Parkop, the Leader of the SDP, and all supporters, followers, and members of the party. In his strong contribution to the SDP, he wanted us to find a lasting solution to the Bougainville issue that is kept hanging in the Parliament during the tumultuous years of the Bougainville Crisis, Fr Simon stood as a beckon of hope and peace as a senior priest than in Bougainville. He bravely facilitated dialog between warring factions seeking reconciliation on end to the violence and his tireless efforts are a testament to his unwavering commitment to peace and unity; as Mathew 5: 9 reminds us, "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they may be called sons of God*".

## **06/01**

Today we mourn the loss of a true son of God who dedicated his life to serving others and bringing peace to those around him. Fr Simon's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a politician. He inspired a generation of leaders to follow in his footsteps, to prioritize the needs of others above self, and to strive for peace and understanding.

As we bid farewell, Mr Speaker, to this extraordinary individual. Simple as he may be, but he was truly extraordinary in the cause for peace. With comfort in the knowledge that his selfless spirit will continue to inspire all of us.

May his life serve as a reminder that true leadership is about saving others and that peace is always within reach. If we work towards it. Rest in peace to the late honourable Fr Simon Dumarinu, your legacy will never be forgotten. And on behalf of Pangu Pati, members of Parliament, and supporters throughout the length and breadth of our country, including Bougainville, we want to say thank you for your honourable service to our coalition government. Rest in peace.

**Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA** (Kiriwina-Goodenough – Leader of the Opposition) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to, on behalf of the Opposition, would like to concur with the Prime Minister this afternoon in paying our respects to the late leader.

Mr Speaker, the leaders of Bougainville, who are here in this house today with us, and those back in Bougainville. To the late leader's family, the people of Bougainville, the people of Papua New Guinea, and especially to the Catholic faith family, both in Bougainville and in Papua New Guinea. He would be today one of the proudest leaders, as a priest himself, to sit in this house and wait patiently for the arrival of the leader of the Catholic Church, who will be arriving in our land in a few days' time.

However, like the priest who shared the word of God today at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, from the book of Ecclesiastes, he said, there is time for everything. A time to be born and a time to die. And the message today by the priest at the Catholic Church was a wonderful message, fitting for such a man, a leader like the late member who is in rest before us.

Mr Speaker, he is a very decent, respectful, and humble leader and a human being, and especially as a leader who was called to be a leader very early in life. We heard today that his father was a leader in the Catholic Church, and he followed suit in the footsteps of his father to be a priest himself, and another sibling in the family who happened to be a priest as well.

And so, we know from the stories that we heard today that this person was destined to be a leader amongst his people. Mr Speaker, for that very reason, he was chosen and elected to represent his people in this House for two consecutive terms.

Mr Speaker, our late brother and leader for the people of Bougainville is bigger and larger than the life of a person, both in character and in all walks of life.

## **07/01**

I had a rare opportunity, like the Prime Minister himself, to meet him a week before his passing.

We happened to be in the same shop at the same time, he was served at another counter, I was in at the other counter, and as I said, he's a man larger than life. He walked over and said hello to me, and we had a conversation in the shop. Not knowing that after a week out here, he's calling to go to be with his creator.

Mr. Speaker, the leader who lived the fullness of life. We had in this Chamber a few months ago, were he stood up to speak for the interest of the people of Bougainville, and he

spoke from his heart. He told us that during the crisis, he was in the midst of both parties, and he called for leaders of Bougainville for peace to prevail on the island. And this is the type of leader he is, he was Christ-centred, and he put his life down for his people. I think that is the type of life that leaders need to live. He was a humble, respectful, and a very decent man.

Today, as we come to pay our respects, it is also a call to all leaders, all leaders, both in this house and outside of this house, that you may, as leaders, look out in what you may eat, for the greater benefit of the people of Papua New Guinea.

Today, again, we have lost a great leader, and I am deeply saddened by his death because he wants to see the greater Bougainville become what they plan to have it to be.

Today, I want to and on behalf of my people of Kiriwina-Goodenough, the people of Milne Bay Province, the party, PNC party, our leader, may be allowed to speak, but on behalf of the PNC family and the Opposition, we say thank you, thank you very much for your heart, for your service to the people of Papua New Guinea, to the service that you've given to the people of Bougainville and your electorate. May God go with you on your journey, and God bless you. Once again, thank you.

**Mr POWES PARKOP (NCD)** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on behalf of our party, Social Democratic Party to join the Prime Minister, Opposition leader, you may all get on a Parliament to pay tribute and offer words of comfort and condolences to the relatives of the Member, late Honourable Fr Simon Dumarinu who tragically lies here with us in his final journey to go to his resting place.

Our party, we are in shock and still at the loss of the passing of a stalwart of our party. Its untimely passing has taken all of us by surprise, and we are still coming to terms with the loss of a member of our party, a stalwart of our party a loyal member of our party.

So on behalf of our parliamentary party, and members of our party, we want to first offer our condolences to the immediate relatives in Central Bougainville, the people of Central Bougainville, our people of Bougainville, and of course, all our people in the length and breadth of our country, Papua New Guinea, in which Father not just served Bougainville, but equally our people in the length and breadth of our country, both in his time as a Catholic priest and equally as a member of parliament. Late Member who lies with us today was an extraordinary leader in his own right and he was a true servant of God.

**08/01**

And on behalf of our Party, I would say he was a true servant of our people, especially our people, especially the people of Bougainville. As during the height of the Bougainville crisis as we all have learned, the then Fr Simon Dumarinu never deserted his vocation as the Catholic Priest. He stood and remained with the people. He was a man of peace reaching out to all combatants.

The resistance, the BRA and the PNG Defense Force, he provided shelter and support to all. And most importantly he was a man of peace trying to get everyone to start working towards peace. And because of that outstanding work he was highly respected in Bougainville. In his political journey, this outstanding work had shown in many occasions in which he ran for a number of seats in Bougainville. Firstly, in 2015; he contested for the ABG Presidential Elections, and from records it shows that he did very well. In 2017 he contested under our party for the first time for the Central Bougainville seat, he was successful and won by four votes against his predecessor than who sadly passed on too. The late Sam Akoitai.

Mr Speaker, his term in Parliament was short, there was a recount of the election in 2017 and he lost by 8 votes but he was committed to serving God and his people. He did not rest and tried again the ABG presidential elections and the regional Bougainville seat. And true enough, showing his highly respected status in Bougainville, he came second on both counts.

When you would talk to him, he would say he probably won but somethings came up as that is the normal narrative that we all tend to say when we do not do so well, nevertheless his standing is a testament to his work, his passion and commitment to serving God and his people of Bougainville and this country Papua New Guinea. He never wavered, tragically his time in Parliament as I recall in 2017 was short lived and sadly today it is short lived as well. Just two years into his term as the Member for Central Bougainville, he tragically passed away. And we have lost a great leader; a leader who was committed to peace, the future of Bougainville and someone who was highly respected.

He was committed to his work, in the recent past, I believe for the first time a leader from Bougainville was able to launch a five-year development plan and his passing is no coincidence as it was during the cause of the festival in Bougainville and walking up to his village which was a hideous work. He did not care too much about his health. He pushed

himself and that shows his commitment and passion to serving his people. We have lost a great outstanding leader.

**09/01**

Mr Speaker, he never wavered until his passing and commitment to Bougainville. Now that he has left us and reflecting on all his work and dedication. He believed in Bougainville and PNG. And as he passes and leaves us today, let us reflect on his work.

One thing I want to remind all of us is that; he still believed and was committed to the result of the referendum. We can still have an independent Bougainville but it will still be good for PNG and it will be more than ordinary outcome that we will show to the world.

This is what I want to leave to all of us. As a reminder of his legacy and his great work especially, dedicating his life to serving God and our people. Being a major contributor to the peace process in Bougainville and the subsequent process towards the referendum and defining the future of Bougainville.

He wants us to put the issue of Bougainville on the agenda and not for us to be afraid of it. His words were this; if Bougainville becomes independent, we would not go anywhere, we are family and he believed and as party leader, I believe that we can make an extraordinary unique outcome that will define the world and will be exceptional to us.

And it will prove that once again like the peace agreement, we will have an exceptional outcome that we will be proud of and that is what the late Fr Honourable Simon Dumarinu was committed to. He has served his people well and had a fulfilling life.

Mr Speaker, of course, we can say it wasn't untimely passing but it is within the space that God has given us that we must utilize our lives to the fullest. So, we can be sad but we must celebrate his life too Mr Speaker and honourable members of Parliament. That this man a leader in his own right, a servant of God, and a servant of the people. He utilized and used the privilege of life to the maximum and we can be proud of it. And I believe God will put him in his right hand up there in heaven.

Once again thank you, Mr Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, and members of Parliament for joining us to pay tribute and offer condolences and sympathy to the people of Central Bougainville and Bougainville.

Thank you.

**Mr JOHN ROSSO** (Lae – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands and Immigration) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to stand here to share and offer my condolences on this honourable Floor.

Mr Speaker, we gather here today with heavy hearts to pay tribute to the humble leader, a man of faith, and a dedicated servant of the people, Fr Simon Dumarinu the late Member for Central Bougainville. His passing leaves a gap that will be deeply felt not just by his family but the people of Central Bougainville and our entire nation. Fr Simon was a great man who not only understood his people but shared with them their struggles and triumphs and was instrumental in his devotion to serving the people and spreading the word of God during the Bougainville crisis.

Mr Speaker, Fr Simon was more than just a politician. He was a man driven by a deep sense of duty to his people and a commitment to peace and development. His leadership was anchored and his unwavering belief in the power of community and dialogue.

Fr Simon was first elected to the Tenth Parliament in 2017 and re-elected to the Eleventh Parliament in 2022. It shows his strong connection to his people as a man of the faith. He brought a unique perspective to his role as a member of Parliament always striving to serve with integrity, humility and compassion.

## **10/01**

Mr Speaker, during his time in Parliament, Fr Simon worked tirelessly to address the interests of the Central Bougainville and the greater Bougainville itself. He was a strong advocate for the rights of his people. He was ensuring that their voices were heard.

Two months ago, Fr Simon and His Excellency President Ishmael Toroama welcomed Prime Minister Honourable James Marape to the lounging of Central Bougainville's 5-Year Development Plan which was a key initiative by Fr Simon to pave the way forward for empowering service delivery in Central Bougainville two months ago.

Mr Speaker, Fr Simon stood the complexities and the challenges faced by the Bougainville and was deeply committed to the course of peace and reconciliation. His efforts in promoting sustainable development and improving the livelihood of his constituents will be remembered as a significant part of his legacy. He was instrumental in championing the infrastructure development in Central Bougainville, recognizing that progress in education, health, and economic opportunity was vital for the future of his people. His advocacy for

improved health care, better education facilities, and an economic empowerment initiative has left an indelible mark in his region.

Mr Speaker, had to remember Fr Simon today. We also honor his unwavering dedication to the Bougainville Peace Agreement. His work in fostering unity and collaboration amongst different communities in Bougainville was exemplary. He shared a lot of stories in that aspect. He believed that true peace could only be achieved through understanding and passion, and I shared my commitment to the future. This was highlighted in his speech during the last sitting of Parliament, which was debated on ratification where he spoke strongly for the future of Bougainville. Fr Simon's legacy is one of hope, resilience, and a deep love for his people. He taught us that leadership is not only about power or prestige but about service and sacrifice. His life was a testament to the values of humility, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of justice for all.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of myself, the Prime Minister, and our Government, I want to assure the people of Central Bougainville that he has left an indelible mark on the Bougainville peace process, and this will be continued by our government. On behalf of my family, the people of Lae, and Bougainvilleans in Lae, I extend our deepest condolences to Fr Simon's family, the SDP, and his people, we share in your grievance and pray that you will find strength in the love and memories you shared with him. His legacies will continue to inspire us as we work towards a better and more peaceful Bougainville.

May Fr Simon, Member for Central Bougainville rest in eternal peace, knowing that his life had made a lasting impact on his beloved Central Bougainville and our nation. He smiles from Heaven when we reap that lasting peace. The Lord gives and the Lord takes.

Thank you.

**Mr DON POLYE** (Kandep) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the people of Kandep, I also join the mourners on the Floor of Parliament as well as the people of Central Bougainville and PNG as well in the passing of Honourable Fr Simon Dumarinu.

Mr Speaker, on this Floor of Parliament and other occasions, expressed condolences and times of grievances to other deaths but those deaths we have had have a wife or a husband or a son or a daughter or some children. But this is one of those few occasions on which I am honoured to stand to reflect and to celebrate the passing of one of honourable man, clergy on the surface of God who didn't have a wife or a child and relative of his own to carry on his genealogy.

**11/01**

Here is a man I am truly honoured to pay tribute to and celebrate his life. A man who unattached himself emotionally from any other human that would have come out from his own blood but a man who chose to have a family that was not one of genes but one that made humanity become one family that we should all see as equal in the eyes of one another. And that gives me that hour to see this honourable leader, the honourable Father Simon Dumarinu in celebrating his life when he was living as a person who was a father, who was a brother, who was a relative of all the people of Papua New Guinea and that's a wonderful thing, Mr Speaker.

Most of the times we attach ourselves to emotional attachments that we find that is my son, that is my wife, that is my daughter or that is my tribesman, that is my clansman that is from my region, my province etcetera but here lies before us a man who did not see it that way. He chose when he was a young man when he had all these opportunities to become a man of emotional attachments to personalities and friends and relatives but he chose not to do that. I learnt from him like I learnt from many others that he chose to make the whole human race, people of Central Bougainville, the people of Bougainville, people of Papua New Guinea, people of the world his family and I think that's a wonderful thing that we should celebrate and I celebrate with happiness. Although the body goes down into the grave but the spirit that choose to live this kind of life of love that sees no difference in anybody, that lives on forever is the life attributed. He lived that. I celebrate that, Mr Speaker.

Also, let me say his service to human beings in this country, in Central Bougainville at the Autonomous Region is unparallel to the service that many of us would have served in our lives because we sat in our private areas as a professional, as a business person, as a leader in some hamlets of life in society but here is someone who served human beings ever since he was a young man in the public space, in the Catholic church as well as in the public Christian arena, he has been serving. So even to come in as a member of Parliament representing the people of Central Bougainville on this floor of Parliament is no new task for him. He had been serving. He had been serving at all huma social structure up to the time he came to the Floor of Parliament and he has served.

Unlike myself, I would have served in the private sector in my own little cocoon, in my own professional life before I became a public figure but here lies a man before us who has

been serving in the public space and he was still serving in the public space and he died serving in the service that he has been providing.

And I salute and celebrate that kind of unselfish life that the late Honourable Fr Simon Dumarinu gave unwaveringly to the people of Central Bougainville and to Papua New Guinea and I think the best thing when someone passes on, like I always think is that while we mourn and we express emotionally the loss that we experienced, the best thing is to emulate the good lives, the good spirit that these wonderful people have left for us to carry those good things in us so that we live on those forever.

Let me also express this, what a time for the late Fr to pass on. He's a clergyman from the Catholic church. The holy ?? will be here in this country, yes in this country and here I see as a divine death because his dying, we say he's dead but in fact his dying as a priest, as a member of Parliament, as a public figure and as a leader has done a wonderful thing when the head of the Catholic church arrives in this wonderful country of ours. And I think it's a divine death and we can celebrate also when the holy ?? comes into Papua New Guinea. All church of all kinds, we should celebrate the coming of the Pope into our country because here we honour a man who was ordained by the Pope to be a priest and he lies before us.

## **12/01**

Mr Speaker, I think it's a divine thing even in his death. Mr Speaker, this work on Bougainville was not one of a polarized approach.

I was listening attentively to the debate that he was participating in when we discussed the last Parliament about the future of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. He shared his experiences and what he had been doing as a Priest, and even talked about some very difficult situations.

In one of those experiences he shared, he said, they were trying to behead some Papua New Guinean soldiers, but he intervened and stopped that beheading from happening because he said that was not the right thing to do, not only as a Priest but also as a Leader.

So here he is a man who did not just think about his kind of people on his island but he was somebody who thought of Papua New Guinea at large, was also thinking about the Bougainvilleans he came between the two factions to say, look, let's pacify the situation, let's have some peace there, and let's not create more disarmament and more destruction to love and property. So, the work that he did there on Bougainville and the process that is now expressed by various other speakers and that's ongoing.

I believe that in honor of him will bring the Bougainvillean issue to rest, where I agree with the Deputy Prime Minister and the leader of the Social Democratic Party, and the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader that we should have the peace that should be there.

We already have peace there, but we should make it formally, technically, the process that the honorable leader was passed on, plus the others who have started, and these others who have passed on before him, like Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare, Sir Mekere Morauta and the others who have contributed to this process, we should honor them all by bringing to this issue an amicable solution where everyone is happy and there's a win-win for all of us.

Let me conclude by saying that he was a young man and I know him. He's not the one that could pass on like this, he's very young, like all of us, almost young, 50 years, 60 years, he's not old.

I have a bit of white hair up here, Mr Speaker and I'll show you a bit of water below your chin, I can see that, and there's one person here and there, that's not going to be old. We are still young!

And if you look at the spectrum of deaths across the country now, in private, in public life, in business, as well as in family lives, young people are losing lives. Young Papua New Guinea is dying young.

When you talk about the future of Papua New Guinea, the future of Papua New Guinea is today, it's not tomorrow.

The future of Papua New Guinea is how we live today, and I know that the honorable late Priest passed on from a heart condition. I know he went to a General Hospital and he stance twice, and I know that that stance broke somewhere so, Mr Speaker it arrests all of us to look at the way of life we're living, the modern society today. Papua New Guinea is very young and now people are dying very young, it is a challenge because then those younger ones we are producing, are left to emulate the ones at that level, 50s, 60s and 70s, to see the country in the future and there is a challenge that I think the Parliament and all of us in that business of health should look at, that we can learn from as to what are the healthful ways of living.

I think that's what we should pursue more than those that stress us too much and we find hearts collapsing one by one. They seem to live more than the lifespan that we're living today.

With this, I conclude in this time of bereavement, experienced by the people of Central Bougainville, Bougainville to the large, the people of Papua New Guinea, the Catholic domain, the Social Democratic Party, and all of us, may I share the celebration of the passing of the late Leader, that we learned from the good things that he lived so let's make him live forever in us by living the good life like he did.

**13/01**

May his soul rest in peace and I remind you of this text that says that for me to live is Christ, but to die is gain so actually we are gaining it because the life we live on forever in the living that we live today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA** (Komo-Magarima – Minister for Bougainville Affairs) –  
Thank you, Mr Speaker.

On behalf of my people of Magarima and my office in the capacity of Bougainville Affairs Minister, I want to take this opportunity to join our fellow leaders in paying a special tribute to this great Bougainvillean and Papua New Guinean Leader who lay in state before us.

Many good words have been spoken about his good deeds, words, character, and way of life, his singular, remarkable contribution to our great country is his unspoken selfless, and heroic act of peacemaking and unification of our people during the height of the Bougainville crisis.

As a clergyman or a man of God he led to the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001, which effectively ended the decade-long armed conflict and ushered in 20 years of peace that we all enjoy now.

I want to place a special recognition for his contribution to my line of work as a political leader after he entered politics.

Mr Speaker, apart from faithfully serving his beloved district of Central Bougainville, the late Honorable Dumarinu continued to serve our great country as a former National Minister for Bougainville affairs back in 2017 and made a significant contribution to ensuring that the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the *National Constitution*, were adhered to by the Bougainville government and the Bougainville government by preparing the Bougainville referendum to be held in the year 2019, which indeed took place then.

Mr Speaker, after the Bougainville Referendum was had, I must say that debates in this flow in the national parliament on the issue were relatively quiet and somewhat mediocre due to the sensitive nature of the referendum result returning more than 97 per cent in favor of independence,

I must give credit to and recognize the late Honorable Dumarinu's relentless questions without notice during question times on this very Floor here, which sparked serious debates in this House and the public space about the issue of Bougainville's political future, recently that we have seen unlike before.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Dumarinu, was a unique leader. As the meekest, humblest, gentle, soft-spoken, and peaceful leader he was, his love and commitment to serve his people of Central Bougainville and to pursue the greater interest of Bougainville's future was uncompromising and unwavering as I would gather from his conversations with me and often during debates here in this Floor.

#### **14/01**

Mr Speaker, the late Dumarinu was a peace-loving and wise leader who had a great sense of duty to the mandate he had from his people of Bougainville and also the National *Constitution* and the Bougainville Peace Agreement in approaching the common issue that we have at hand. Mr Speaker, he believed that Bougainville's future would be settled in peace as he was a man of peace. Mr Speaker, what we could learn from this great leader is that we as leaders should learn from such a good man as we are to confront the issue to address the issue that we face at hand going forward.

Mr Speaker, I want to sincerely convey my condolences to the family of late the Honourable Dumarinu and his good people of Central Bougainville as well as his party, the Social Democratic Party. My brother, rest in eternal peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr WILLIAM DUMA** (Hagen-Minister for State Own Enterprise) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is with a very heavy heart that I rise to, on behalf of the people I lead from Hagen and the party that I lead, the United Resource Party, to join others in extending our deepest condolences to the family of the late leader, Honorable Simon Dumarinu, the people of Central Bougainville and the people of Bougainville at large, and of course the leader and the members of the party which he was a member of.

Mr Speaker, the late leader was a unique man. I first met him when he defeated a member who once used to belong to the party that I lead, the late Sam Akoitai. When I first met him, I congratulated him and I asked him, so you are the man who removed my brother? And he gave me that very cheeky smile and I could see that he was a genuine man. I did not know much about him, Mr Speaker, but when we served together in Parliament, I began to realize that he was a genuine leader who had a heart for his people. I also later found out that while his predecessor, the late Sam Akoitai, was the leader of the resistance, he also played a significant role in the resolution of this long-outstanding dispute among our people of Bougainville.

Mr Speaker, the late leader, I later also found out, was the son of a pastor, and that he came through very tough times during the crisis, when he was also on the receiving end of some cruel treatment from the resistance as well. So, he was a man, Mr Speaker, who wanted to serve the people, and eventually, he became the minister for Bougainville Affairs for about 12 months. And when we served together in Cabinet, I could see that he was also really a man who was under a lot of pressure.

He was in a position where he could see the very competing views of this very complex issue that we have on our island of Bougainville, and yet he was the minister responsible for Bougainville Affairs. But he tried his best, and he had a genuine heart, Mr Speaker. It is very sad to see that people who come here to serve the people with a genuine heart go early like this.

When I heard about this passing, I was asking myself, you know, why does God ever allow or take the people like that, when they are still trying to continue to contribute their lives to the people? But as you all know, Mr Speaker, you can never question God at this time. So, he is someone who entered Parliament, he went to several court cases, and he was a determined man, but unfortunately, he's left us. During our time together in this Parliament, Mr Speaker, I even crack jokes with him, and I once asked him, maybe you should delete the name Rinu, and your surname should be Duma, and we can be brothers, you know, a light-skinned brother and a black-skinned brother. He would always smile, and he told me, maybe you should add R-I-N-U to your surname, and we had those.

**15/01**

And even when we were in camp at Loloata, I jokingly asked him, you should ask all of us to confess to you, again, he smiled. And I could see that he was a very genuine leader who meant well for his people and it is unfortunate that he has left us.

I want to thank God for giving this unique person, a man who served his people, firstly, as a father, and then secondly, as a political leader, a unique man he's left us. All I can say is that we all remember him for what he was for and work together so that we also do our bit to create lasting peace. It is the least we can do in this Parliament and also remember him for the work that he did.

So, on behalf of my people, I also want to again repeat my condolences and brother Simon, I want to wish you all the best and rest in peace. Thank you.

**Mr WILLIAM POWI** (Southern Highlands) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in Parliament in expressing my condolences to you Speaker of the House that one of your members has fallen. To the President of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville, the people of Bougainville, the regional member for Bougainville, the Honourable Peter Tsiamalili Jnr together with the other three members of Parliament from Bougainville who are present here today and his family.

I represent the people of Southern Highlands and the five electorates, Ialibu Pangia, Imbonggu, Kagua Erave, Mendi, and Nipa-Kutubu whose members are also present here today and I would like to extend my deepest condolences.

I came to know Father when SDP through Honorable Powes Parkop and his members and more so through the Deputy Party leader and the member for Nipa-Kutubu, Honorable Dr Billy Joseph who brought him to Southern Highlands to witness the district development plan for his electorate and that was a great opportunity to sit down with him and to learn from his qualities and beliefs. Where we members of Parliament take our fellow members for granted. We need to take some time to know our fellow members and their individual qualities and beliefs that God has given us.

When the member for Wewak and the late Father tied a big crocodile in Nipa-Kutubu, we all ran for our lives. We were all terrified but it was an awesome experience to see a crocodile because in the Highlands, we don't see crocodiles. I thank the Member for Wewak seated here, the Governor of NCD and Leader of SDP, and the Members of SDP who are here, I extend my sincere condolences on behalf of my people. You brought a crocodile to

Nipa- Kutubu and Southern Highlands for the first time. It may sound small but to us and the people of Nipa-Kutubu, Southern Highlands it was a very big thing because we don't normally see this in our province.

So, thank you to SDP and the leaders for bringing the late Father to Nipa-Kutubu and I had the opportunity to sit and eat with the late father. We all come from the same church, and I asked him why did he leave the priesthood, many of you are called and chosen to do his work and you are one of them who has been chosen. In us, we are taught the completeness of life from birth to the different callings and we achieve those purposes in life, of course we will face death one day and we will be called one day and that's a completeness of life.

### **16/01**

He used his hands to eat and he said, 'my brother, you know simplicity means humility.' Humility means easy-going, meekness, and service to people. And these are qualities of great leaders who have a destiny of service. It means a man dedicated his private life to the service of God and to Parliament. And what do you think drove this kind of person?

I found in him a great man, he was a giant, not a giant that was beating his chest but one that believed in a cause. I no doubt know that this man is heaven bound and I appreciate the Member for Nipa-Kutubu who brought him to my people who saw him and now they will surely remember him. And if I did not share my condolences it wouldn't be fair to my people, so I take this opportunity to on behalf of my people pass on my sincere condolences to the Government of Bougainville and its people for the loss of a giant of a man who lived a fulfilling life serving his God through his people and country.

**Mr RAINBO PAITA** (Finchhafen) – I wish to take this opportunity to join my colleague Members to send our sincere condolences; firstly; on behalf of the people of my people of Finchhafen, to the people of Central Bougainville who have lost a great leader. I also send these same sentiments to his family who have lost a good man. While in this House we are leaders representing our people, when we return home we belong to a family, a tribe, and a part of a society. That society now has a vacuum and I wish to extend my condolences to the family back home. A lot of good stories about this leader has already been shared and from these; one word that sticks out from my observation is that, he was a peacemaker. He sacrificed a lot as per the sentiments shared of his characteristics.

He dedicated his whole life to serving God and his people. A very rare thing someone can do to forego the beautiful things that we find in this life. He served God and his country in his lifetime and I respect the man he was. I send the same sincere sentiments from my Party to the Leader for SDP for the loss of a Member of your party. It is not an easy task to have a party; and endorse Members who actually make it to Parliament.

I wish to also send my condolences to the people of Bougainville especially our female colleague on the Opposition Member for North Bougainville Open, Ms Francesca Semoso. I send these same sentiments to the Minister for Police Peter Tsiamalili Jnr and Communications Minister, Timothy Masiu, you have lost a brother colleague as coming out of Bougainville and into Parliament in itself is a trying and challenging place to be a leader.

May the peace of God be with you all. The family that are here to witness as he lies in state today, I ay thank you to you all for giving Papua New Guinea a great leader, someone whom we worked and walked along side to be the voice of the people of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. I pray peace to be with you all and that God comfort you all in this time of sorrow.

**17/01**

**Sir PUKA TEMU** (Abau) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I associate myself with all the speeches that have been made on behalf of the families and the electorates. I also stand up on behalf of the people of Abau and my family to offer my sincerest condolence to the family of the leader who is in the Chamber today.

Honourable Speaker, I hope that the leaders today realize the enormity of the impact of the Bougainville crisis. That is the impact of the Bougainville crisis on every citizen on the island. And for the leadership that is of the late Fr Simon's age who have caught up in the crisis and were able to maneuver the crisis until they all came out.

Honourable Speaker, I hope that this honourable Parliament will acknowledge the gravity of the crisis that our brothers and sisters came through from Bougainville and one of them is lying before us.

Honourable Speaker, many acknowledgments have been given but I want to acknowledge two platforms, I believe that created the late leader Fr Simon and that is the value of family. We heard at the funeral service today at Saint Joseph Catholic church and I must say that was a lovely funeral service. Am not from the Catholic church but I enjoyed that funeral service, I think everybody who participated where uplifted through the preaching

of the word of God and just the serenity of the occasion. Not many people attended but it was beautiful.

What I gathered from this leader and what I have encountered with him during the Tenth and Eleventh Parliament and after 2017 the honourable Peter O’Neill appointed him as Minister for Bougainville Affairs. And out of his family, two of them became priests.

And so, in any nation building we have to focus on family. Because family is the building unit of a strong nation. And this family contributed enormously to the country. First, he was a true Papua New Guinean because of the stories he told us and the others told us during the crisis. He was a true Papua New Guinean than the issues.

His last statement on the Floor of Parliament, how he expresses his passion for everything to begin and end through peaceful means. And I want to thank the people who bought that wreath sitting on his casket. It’s peace wreath. Thank you very much for the choice of that wreath because it symbolizes peace.

He was amongst many Bougainvilleans who did everything including the women of Bougainville who led the protest to stop fighting to sit down and talk. And then the peace agreement was signed in 2001.

So, I thank the family of the late Fr Simon, I want to thank God for his parent who contributed to the country by producing two of their sons to the work of the church and if we focus on developing families across the country, I think we can create such leaders.

## **18/01**

Some families don’t handle their children and so they don’t contribute positively to society. I thank God for the family of this leader and his other sibling who also has gone.

The second issue I want to say and I want to say thank you to Catholic church. I think the Catholic Church is now the largest Christian Church in our country. I want to thank the Catholic Church for bringing this leader up. In the eulogy that was read by one of his family members, the late leader underwent many training programs, very well educated through the Catholic Church. I know many other people have benefitted through the Catholic church and are also contributing to nation-building today through its many services – health and education, women development, and children development and when I heard the eulogy, thank you Lord for the Catholic church.

So, I want to acknowledge the contribution of the Catholic Church in this country and specifically for today, to this leader that lies before us. Thank you, Lord, for the Catholic

Church. Two things and I will sit down, honourable Speaker. In one of my statements on the floor of Parliament, I said that the nation has forgotten those who went through this enormous crisis and we have not had a structure to have them resettled back to the societies and the communities including the ex-combatants and also our soldiers who went there. But they've been managing themselves to go back to society and keep contributing. I take my hat off to all the Bougainville leaders who have come out of that crisis, settling themselves and their families and some of them are leaders.

And so, honourable Speaker, what was his last wish on the Floor of the Parliament? His wish was to listen to their cry, the result of the referendum, 97.7 per cent. That was his last wish, supported by all the leaders of Bougainville on the Floor of this Honourable House. I don't think it's too difficult, honourable Speaker we can manage the process quicker and faster than we have been. Thank you, Father, for this leader. Thank you, the family of this leader. Thank you, the Catholic church for your contribution. May your soul rest in God's eternal peace. Thank you.

**Ms FRANCESCA SEMOSO** (North Bougainville) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you, honourable House. I stand to represent the people of North Bougainville. I stand to represent the women of North Bougainville, Bougainville, and the mothers of Papua New Guinea too during this time when we brought a priest, Member of Parliament, chief, and our Father into the Parliament of Papua New Guinea. I, a mother represents the regional member who's also in the House this afternoon, I also represent the Minister for Communication who I didn't see on the Floor of Parliament this afternoon but only three of us are here and I didn't realise at the last Parliament sitting, Honourable House, people of Papua New Guinea and people of Bougainville, that will be the last time that I would hug him and say thank you, papa. He invited me to the launch of his 5-year program. And just today, while I was in church, I went back through the messages on my phone and I saw a message I sent to him, and I was in tears.

**19/01**

In a very short space of time, Honorable House and Honourable Speaker, Papua New Guinea, and Bougainville when I entered Parliament, there was one person I would dig into and I would hug him; there was one person that we all sat down together at the Gallery. If I see rice stuck on his jacket, I would clean it up, or if see his jacket collar not done properly, I

would fix it for him. That's how we treat and respect Bougainvilleans. That's how mothers give their love.

I didn't even realize Papua New Guinea and Bougainville the time we appointed Patriotism Day yesterday, as a public holiday in Bougainville, that this humble, this quiet person, someone I learned from in six months, a childlike passing when I am angry would always calm me down by saying take it easy.

As I speak, I've got Dominic sitting up there. We used to be in the Parliament together in the First House. I never realized that he was his cousin. Parliament, when the Regional Member rang me on Friday at five o'clock in the morning, he said mother call me as soon as you pick up this message.

When I read the messages at about eight o'clock the next morning. I knew it was not good news. When I rang the regional member, he said that Father collapsed and I said that's the first message I got on Facebook.

As we celebrate 23 years of the Peace Agreement in Bougainville, Member for Central Bougainville lies inside the Funeral Home. As Bougainville celebrates patriotism day, 1<sup>st</sup> of September, the Member for Central Bougainville, Father Damarinu, lies in the Funeral Home. I have realized that in this Honourable House, Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, when I was a child, I have never seen and experienced members of Parliament dying every second year in Bougainville. I have never, from the likes of late Donatus Mola, up till now and I am questioning myself, what's happening? In 2020, we lost Akoitai, in 2022 we lost Nakin and now 2024, in front of us is one of us again.

And I ask, Lord, what is this? It never used to happen before and why is it continuing? I shared with my two boys in the vehicle as we drove here and also in support of Governor of Southern Highlands mentioned. I'm starting to see a trend of leaders dying every two years. During the Bougainville Peace Agreement Day last week Friday. In my speech in North Bougainville by saying that we fail to appreciate people that we put on the Floor of the Parliament, either in Bougainville or Papua New Guinea. All we do is throw stones only without even appreciating those who represent you all in Parliament, we have sleepless nights and don't even enjoy our meals so it's time we start appreciating the members we elect into Parliament. Whether it's the Parliament of PNG or Bougainville. I told my people of North Bougainville to start appreciating the people and we voted on the Floor of the Parliament.

So, after 23 years, the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville must have peace and say enough is enough. All the mothers walk up to the mountains and bring their kids and

their husbands back and say that's enough and we need peace and let it be peace by peaceful means.

**20/01**

Father, I say thank you for the Marist Society where he attended to become a priest. A society that doesn't sit in one place, a society that moves around to bring the good news to people in the Islands. They started in Fiji going to all the Islands, to Solomon Islands, to Vanuatu and then to Bougainville. A society that had come up in Bougainville when the good news came into Bougainville. I salute the Marist Society as one of their own, a priest, Honourable Chief and Father lies in a casket this afternoon.

Our stand in Bougainville is not just a political challenge or a challenge to get services into Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. We face a challenge to bring in at least the basic services to Bougainville. The biggest challenge for Papua New Guinea, my brothers here and two sisters of mine, face is spiritual warfare. Two groups of people came to my house in Buka when I set up a hauskrai for three days. I say thank you to the regional members and thank you for your support. I say thank you to the Minister for Communication, thank you for your support for the small hauskrai I made.

The challenge we see and feel is not just the challenge of delivering services. I want your understanding. The challenge we also face is the challenge to make our people's lives better. To make better lives for the children who were born during the war. What you my brothers feel over here, I always and I've never said it before, but I'll say it today, the challenge you face is nothing compared to the RM and Timothy Masiu and I face today. When we see our father lying here today, our honourable member lying here, it gives me a reason again, it gives us a reason to say we want your understanding, we want your love. The people of Bougainville are asking for your goodness. Peace for peace by all means is what we want. We want your understanding. If we don't speak here, they will ask what we are doing here.

Fr Simon was one person who supported me when I spoke here. Sometimes he would say, sister, let me speak first and then you support my statement and I would say, yes Father, I will do. When he died, I said, there goes my friend. Two of my brothers are in NEC. The both of us used to share our thoughts here. I have the highest respect for this gentle person, the six months I have been here as a national parliamentarian, he was one person I would run to. We didn't talk much but at least we messaged each other a lot of times. I would say,

Father, I need your spiritual uplifting. Father, I need you to commit all of us. We cry and say it is the end but what I see today is a blessing for this nation. It's a blessing for Bougainville. It's a blessing for us mothers, it's a blessing for us children.

Mr Speaker, this afternoon I represent myself and my children, I represent the mothers of Papua New Guinea, I represent the mothers of North Bougainville, I represent the mothers of Bougainville. Someone that we would run to as a priest, someone that we would run to when a father calls, someone that we would run to as youths because a priest like him who would stand and we would run to as women, that we would run to as youth, that we would run to as those that were not loved.

## **21/01**

Honorable Late Simon Damarinu, we will miss you. Thank you, for the work that you did in Bougainville. Thank you to your family that are seated up there, thank you, to all his sisters who are back in Bougainville; they all couldn't make it here.

To the Honorable Powes Parkop, thank you, for looking after Fr Dumarinu, our member. I also want to thank the Regional Member, the Minister of Defense for honoring him and listening and bringing the body bag to bring him back.

On that Sunday morning when I got a call from the Regional Member, he said Mama, I will bring the coffin and the chatter too. I got down on my knees and I said, Lord, thank you, thank you, that at least they will take Father back in the airplane and not in a body bag, but in a beautiful coffin. To the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Honorable James Marape, Nigantoana, tampara, thank you, for sending the chatter to pick up our Father and bring him here.

To this nation, this beautiful nation of Papua New Guinea, thank you for continually supporting Bougainville in its journey. Where will I go, you are the father of the nation and I will need you to stand by me. I can't afford to see one dying every two years because of the stress that we have been put into. You are my father; you will look after me until I'm able. I will not be able to carry stuff and go to another place, I am yours.

There is something that I want to do; there could be something positive that Bougainvillea wants to show, there could be something.

To this Parliament, we thank you for allowing our Father, to come stay here. We could not have the late Sam Akoitai inside here and we could not have the late William Nakin inside here but I say thank you to the Minister of Communications, Minister of Police. We

three collectively worked on that morning and said we would like to keep the late Honorable inside the Funeral Home until the 3rd of September, three weeks his body will be kept there because we would like to accord him the respect that he deserves as a Priest and as a Member of Parliament, as a Papua New Guinean, as a Bougainvillean. Thank you to the government for taking care of our Father at the Funeral Home until today.

The family of the Father, tampara, thank you for bearing with us up until now when we accord him the respect that he deserves to be accorded.

To the people of Papua New Guinea, thank you very much, and to the Prime Minister, thank you, for your good heart, and to the Leader of the Opposition, thank you for your understanding in love.

May your soul rest in peace.

**Mr LUTHER WENGE** (Morobe) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for granting me leave to speak on behalf of a foreign comrade who is resting motionless before this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, if I don't speak today, the Morobeans will take offense against me because the Morobeans are best of time friends of the Bougainville people.

**22/01**

It doesn't matter what occupation they are involved in their life, Mr Speaker, but we are best of times friends, forever friends of the Bougainville people. Mr Speaker, the foreign comrades and the relatives of foreign comrades particularly, we send unreserved sorrow to them. We don't say it from our mouth, but we say it from our heart that we feel grossly sad that a man of good character has passed away and God has called him.

Mr Speaker, Jesus said, life belongs to me, and death belongs to me. Whether you're alive or dead, you still belong to me. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I strongly believe that the man who lived in accordance with the word of the Lord, he shall be granted a place in the waiting place that the Lord has prepared for us as he promised.

And Mr Speaker, I am confident that the foreign comrade, member of Central Bougainville, is on his way to the shining city and the house full of glory. I have a strong belief and faith that that is the case as we speak today. Mr Speaker, the foreign comrade is a man who believed in Christian principles.

If he didn't believe in Christian principles, he would not have joined God's ministry in God's church, the Catholic church. He joined it because he believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and he lived by it physically.

With the short time that I have seen him in this Parliament, he was a physically harmless person, a law abiding, living by the Christian principles. He is a true Bougainvillean.

All the Morobeans know generally how the Bougainvilleans behave because we had interaction with them for too long. Many Bougainvilleans had married Morobeans and many Morobeans married Bougainvillean men, because we trust each other. We completely trust each other so, he demonstrated to us in the time that I knew him, as he is a true Bougainvillean. Most Bougainvilleans as we know them, they are not boastful people. They obey the law and the customs and he demonstrated that in the short time that I have come to know him in this Parliament. He is a true Bougainvillean. He is a true Papua New Guinean and he showed that. He believed in the independence of Papua New Guinea, the principles that we have shared of unity and harmony. He demonstrated it in the short time that I have come to know him.

He demonstrated it without any constraint and without any reservation before this Parliament. His role as a member of Parliament. He showed it. He showed the Bougainvillean ways in this Parliament. And he showed, Mr Speaker, in his way, in a peaceful way. In the Government Caucus, where I saw him and heard him in Parliament.

## **23/01**

In the forums that I saw and heard him, he demonstrated that he believed in those principles. And he was elected by the people of Central Bougainville, not because he's a loudspeaker, a forceful speaker, or fought people physically to gain support, not at all. He convinced the people of Central Bougainville that he was completely a harmless person, fiercely loving, law-loving, Christian principle-loving, and just a typical Bougainvillean. He demonstrated in his actions that he was a very good gentleman; he lived an exemplary life. When he believed in something, he would show it by action, not just by talking, but by action. We need so many people in this country like that, unfortunately, we don't have it, with the greatest respect to the people of this country. We need these types of people, if we have it, this country will be moving fast and we will be able to achieve our dreams of independence

that we have, we have asserted on the day of the 16th of September 1975. Today, unfortunately, not many people are like that.

Mr Speaker, I hope that Papua New Guineans will behave in the way that the member for Central Bougainville has shown.

Mr Speaker, the member is a representative of the Bougainville people together with the Honorable Francesca Semoso, Honorable Peter Tsiamalili Jnr and Honorable Timothy Masiu who are before this Parliament should all be considered their heroes in this Parliament after I strongly asked the Minister for Bougainville Affairs Honorable Manasseh Makiba to bring the paper which was presented on the matters of Bougainville referendum and we debated upon. I listened to their debates they are truly the ambassadors. They are truly the representative of the Bougainville aspirations before this Parliament. They did it, they said all they could say. They want Independence for Bougainville in a peaceful way, not a violent way.

Initially they began, but eventually by 2001, a Memorandum of Agreement or Peace Agreement, they want the independence of Bougainville in a peaceful way. And the member who has fallen should be considered by the Bougainville people a true representative. He spoke the minds of the Bougainvilleans together with the rest of the members they spoke their minds. I was very happy that they spoke their mind. What they spoke is not their mind, but it's the Bougainvilleans minds that they have spoken in this Parliament.

I consider you, the late brother, a comrade member of Parliament, Member for Central Bougainville, a hero and the Bougainvilleans as a hero before this Parliament. And Prime Minister, we can't afford to have Bougainvilleans who have been voted into this Parliament to represent the Bougainville aspirations, and they continue to die without achieving their Bougainville aspirations.

**24/01**

We have to make a decision fast on the issue of the referendum as fast as we can as we cannot afford to have this kind of thing happening again. I call on the Prime Minister for his understanding that we have to deal with this issue. The issue of the result of the referendum is before the Parliament for determination under *Section 342 of the Constitution*.

We have to deal with it and I hope that these things will happen. We send our condolences and it is a sad scenario that a lot of Members from Bougainville who come into Parliament bringing with them aspirations of the people of Bougainville have died. We

cannot question the hand of God but we have to do our part while we have the time and life to do something and let our aspirations be realized. The aspirations and the dreams for the people of Bougainville are in the hands of this Parliament, let us not only talk about it but do something about it. I leave this in your hands Mr Prime m\Minister.

To my brother late Member for Central Bougainville, you have done your job and may you rest in peace. And we shall celebrate his life as doing what God told him to do. He has done his job and we shall celebrate his contribution to Bougainville, to this Parliament, and to humanity as a whole, he did it.

On behalf of my people of Morobe, I send my sincere condolences from my heart to the people of Central Bougainville, the immediate families and the Autonomous Region in this time of sorrow. As I have said earlier, we believe you are on your way to the shining city full of glory, because you have achieved what God called you to do for the people of Papua New Guinea.

**Mr PILA NININGI** (Imbonggu-Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – I thank you Mr Assistant Speaker for giving me this opportunity on behalf of the people of Imbonggu and the Department of Justice and Attorney General to send my sincere condolences to the people of Central Bougainville. It is with heartfelt sympathy that I send out these condolences to the immediate family, the people of AROB and the country.

As the other Members have already mentioned, he was truly a great man. From his character and his expression, one would note that this man was really a servant of God and his people. It is unfortunate that God called him home early as he has his own way and time to call each of us.

Thank you, late Simon Dumarinu, for the work and effort you have put into Papua New Guinea and your people of Bougainville. Thank you to the Government of Papua New Guinea for giving this honorable man the State Funeral that he deserves.

**25/01**

The death of a person here in Papua New Guinea, we shift the blame to sorcery but the truth is only the Lord gives and takes the lives of a person according to his will and plan; no man has control over death and life.

The late Fr Simon and I are the same age group and we were both born in 1956. God is in control of our lives and it also depends on the type of food we eat. The other thing we must

do is exercise regularly to balance our lives. Our lives span will be short or long it depends on us. So, it is not good to blame the death of Fr Simon on sorcery, which is not good, it may cost many lives and property destruction.

I have heard two speakers speak off the track. I wanted to put it into perspective that a priest had lost his life and it's not an ordinary person. The good Lord has taken his life and I pass my heartfelt condolences for his death. But the good Lord will raise another person like him in the family.

I thank his family for raising a God-fearing person. The late Fr Simon was my personal friend, calling me brother and an easy-going person. Both of us were ministers in the Tenth Parliament and sitting close to each other but he was ousted through the Court.

People had mandated in the Eleventh Parliament and I thank him for the good work he did with honesty and we must follow in his leadership footsteps. May your soul rest in peace.

**Mr PETER TSIAMALILI JR** (Bougainville – Minister for Police) – Thank you, Mr Assistant Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to pass heartfelt condolences to one of our powerful Bougainvillean leaders.

We all have given account as individuals, the moments that we shared with the late Simon Dumarinu. On behalf of my President his Excellency Ishmael Toroama with the 600,000 people of Bougainville, more importantly, my family in Central Bougainville, and the late family of Dumarinu in Orani to appreciate Papua New Guinea.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of Papua New Guinea and each one of you the mandated leader of this honourable House has been interacting with the late Simon and the three of us Bougainvillean Members.

**26/01**

I am very happy with the expression and recognition shared by some of our leaders of the four leaders of Bougainville. The journeys of these four leaders were unique and special from each other.

Here in the National Parliament, when we plan our journey to deliver or support our people, we have the 2050 visions and the Medium-Term Development Plans but no one in this Parliament has embraced the 2001 Peace Agreement then the four leaders of Bougainville. You have your MTDP4, we have the MTDP plus the Peace Agreement.

The Late Simon Dumarinu is a testament and an embodiment of the 2001 Peace Agreement and I appreciate the provincial Member of Morobe for calling out the names of Bougainville leaders who have passed on during this short span of time in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Let me remind this House that the Late Honourable Nakin died at the age of 72, Late Sam Akoitai died at the age of 60, and Late Father Dumarinu died at the age of 68. These three leaders of Bougainville were in their 40s when the civil unrest in Bougainville occurred. They were at their mature age where they saw everything before them and now, they have taken them and the wake of the people into this House. And whilst we have lost them, the desire of the people will continue within the next generation and the next generation. I must make it clear that the aspirations and desires of the people of Bougainville are in their genes.

The Late Father Simon Dumarinu, we refer to him as the father of the peace in Bougainville and he is. I want to leave this House with some important words that I believe his character will help us with a clear vision to look at the 97.7 lives of the people of Bougainville.

Mr Speaker, the first thing that I want to highlight here is our health. We used to talk about other things but we don't talk about our health. This country will not prosper if we are not healthy and continue to delivering our aspirations. I witnessed it at first end as a first-time MP in 2021 when I came in as a young regional PM. My three MPs of Bougainville died with their aspirations and I want to share this message so that you will help us with the work of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and we also must take care of our health.

## **27/01**

My three leaders died of heart disease and it's in relation to life style disease. I fully support what the Minister for Justice has mentioned on the food we eat and it's true. You are what you eat, and I encourage all of us, for our people, for our children, that we are careful in what we eat.

The second message I want to share is about peace and Papua New Guinea we talk about peace, but we all must have peace. You must have peace. Message from Bougainville to Papua New Guinea is peace and let it start at your house. I feel that the Bougainville Peace Agreement is taking too long because much good work we trying to do to address it Bougainville doesn't have stability in PNG. And we are not addressing the agenda quickly.

So, we need peace and it allows you to disagree as well. It's good but we must do it in a good way.

My last message to the people of Papua New Guinea and my leaders that on behalf of my three Members and late Father. This one word is mostly used by my good Prime Minister and many of you seniors as well, but I want to just highlight this word that you need to use and you need to immerse yourself in this word that will help all of us with the Bougainville Peace Agreement. I want all of you to understand the meaning of empathy. Please my leaders of PNG understand this word empathy so that you can help us resolve our walk for peace agreement to get 97.7 per cent likes of people where today another leader sleeping in front of us as also walked to conclude this peace agreement.

Mr Speaker, my Honourable House I want to thank you so much to Papua New Guinea for supporting the people of Bougainville and the leaders. I want to say thank you to one of our leaders for having this opportunity to come to this Chambers, so that the greater Papua Neginia and leadership can acknowledge the good work that Bougainvillean leaders continue to uphold, which is the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed by both Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, which no other leaders have except the four, including the regional member of Bougainville, where we embrace the peace agreement as a core business of our delivery of service on Bogan will, despite the many challenges that the greater PNG has.

I want to say thank you, Peace of Christ be with you all. The word empathy can touch your heart so that it will help you because we have come close to Peace Agreement.

On behalf of my family and the people of Bougainville, we want to pass our appreciation to the National Government. And also, particularly the family of the late Simon Dumarinu, want to thank you all for coming and expressing him without fear or favor in this Honorable House of Papua New Guinea. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Motion – That condolences be noted – agreed to.

**28/01**

**Mr SPEAKER** - As a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentleman, I invite all members to rise in their places.

*(Bagpipes lead the procession out)*

**Mr SPEAKER** – I thank the Parliament.

**29/01**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion (by **Mr Peter Tsiamalili Jr**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 4.40 p.m.