Issue No. 11 The Informer 08th August, 2025

# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# THE INFORMER

## WELCOME TO THE INFORMER



A QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED

## Ms. Memo — Together We Make a Difference — Page 1

When schools and families work together, children thrive. A strong school community is built on trust, communication, and shared commitment to every child's success.








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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Welcome to Ms. Memo's Article

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**





### Together We Make a Difference

Week 3 was a very busy and productive week for our school community. One of the highlights was the **Knowledge Expo Meeting** with the theme **Home and School Together**. This session was designed to reinforce collaboration between parents and the school. Teachers unpacked six key aspects of school life as a refresher for parents, reminding them of school expectations and how they can support their child's learning during the second half of the year.

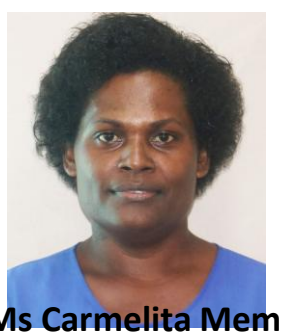


The six aspects covered during the **KNOWLEDGE EXPO – PARENT TEACHER TOGETHER** session included: **School-Home Communication, Curriculum, School Information, Positive Behaviour for Learning, KoroBoro Education Setting the Standard, Question & Answer Time.**

We had a very good turnout from parents, who were appreciative of the valuable information shared. This session empowered them to better support their child/ren throughout the remainder of the year. Class teachers also provided one-on-one meeting schedules, allowing parents to sign up for individual conferences to take place in Weeks 3 and 4.

To end the week on a high note, we held a successful **BBQ, Movie and Bingo Night**. A big thank you to our dedicated staff who made this event possible, and to our supportive parents who always show up to ensure its success. We also extend our thanks to our sister schools who came along to support. Students had a fantastic time enjoying the games set up between 4:30pm and 6:00pm. From 6:00pm to 7:00pm, we screened a movie that captivated our younger students. Bingo Night kicked off at 6:30pm and ran through to 8:30pm, filled with laughter, the sound of numbers being called, cries of "Bingo!" and plenty of delicious food. Everyone left with smiles on their faces and in high spirits.

We value school events like these, as they bring out the **KoroBoro School Spirit** and strengthen our community by bringing together all stakeholders – staff, students, and families. A strong community bond indeed, as the saying goes:
**"It takes a village to raise a child."**



**Ms Carmelita Memo, Deputy Principal**

# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Welcome to ELV PM

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**

## ELV – Pre PM Class News

Term 3 is an excellent term for Pre PM class. A new start for the term to assist us better comprehend routines and expectations through the visual signals provided in class. We went over them as a class to learn and comprehend why they are in the room. Visuals of Making GOOD OR BAD Choices when playing with others. Making choices is a terrific skill we are using right now to help students think and make better choices especially in hard situations







The class also has a "CALM DOWN AREA." This is the place where students go when they are feeling low. Some visual clues are placed to assist children in calming or regulating their emotions






Now that we are in the fourth week, we have observed that the utilization of visual aids is assisting students in improving their communication skills and fostering an environment that encourages independence. We will continue to use visuals in class to make learning more fun.











# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Welcome to Grade 1NK

### WELCOME TO THE INFORMER

**Learning is Fun and Exciting in 1NK!**
In our class, learning is always an exciting adventure! Each day is filled with hands-on activities, collaborative group work, engaging games, and fun specialist classes. Whether we're exploring numbers, diving into new stories, or discovering new strategies, we make learning enjoyable and meaningful. Our classroom is a safe, happy space where everyone is encouraged to ask questions, try new things, and grow together as curious, confident learners.










**Connecting Phonics to Reading**
We make learning meaningful by connecting skills across subjects. During our Phonics lessons this week, students explored how to build and write high-frequency words and form plurals. Later, during Reading, they confidently applied these skills while reading shared texts and independent reading. This meaningful connection helped consolidate their understanding and showed them how Phonics supports real reading. It was a proud moment to see students making connections and growing as confident, readers!













# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Welcome to Grade 3LA

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**

*Quote: It has been said that 80% of what people learn is visual*
*Allen Klein*



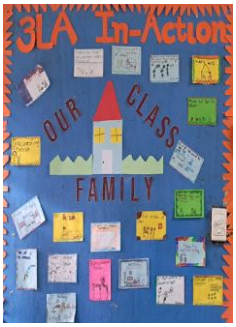

In 3LA the use of graphic organizers and visuals has been our learning focus in English and our unit of Inquiry. It has helped us to visualize and construct ideas, organize and/or sequence information, plan what to write, increase reading comprehension, brainstorm, organize problems and solutions, compare and contrast ideas, show cause and effect and more.

Using different graphic organizers and visuals provides a fun way for us to learn about the different writing processes. It encourages and allows us to achieve a better understanding of text organization simply because using graphic organizer's reveals the structure of the text and the different possible forms of organization in an easy-to-grasp visual manner.

Our Learning Wall is used as a visual in the classroom to let students share their ideas and opinions.











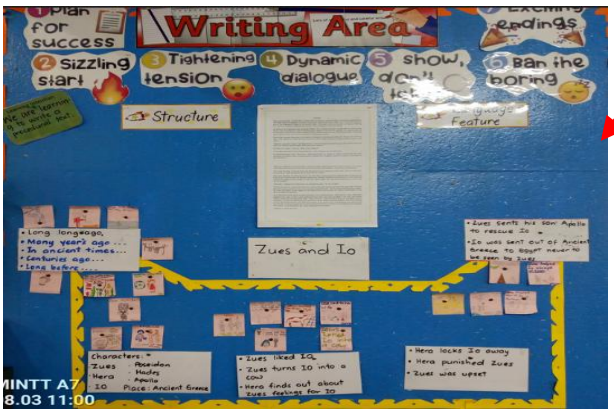
A **Shout Out** to the students above for achieving their Smart Goals and receiving their classroom certificates.

Our **shout-out board** is a short public acknowledgement of someone or something, especially by name. This motivational board we have in our classroom gives opportunities for students in class to encourage one another by writing wonderful things about each other daily.






A team presenting their information on a graphic organizer showing items of monetary value from the Momase region in PNG.




The story graph is used to help young writers understand the structure or the elements of a text.

**Top Image:** Inquiry learning Wall- The KWL Chart. We use the KWL chart organizing our information. (KLW- what I Know, What I am Wondering and what I learnt chart) achieve

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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Welcome to 4DM

### WELCOME TO THE INFORMER

Amazing 4DM class has taken on board the refined version of the PBL award system which began in term 3. In the last 4 weeks the class has been working hard on writing individual **SMART** goals and authentic actions that will meet the goals. With continued feedback, students are showing progress in both writing their goals and actions. They continue to write, work on and reflect on their goals.

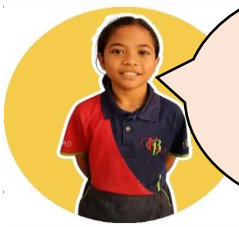
Here's Our Goals Section




Goals Achieved!



What I have learnt.



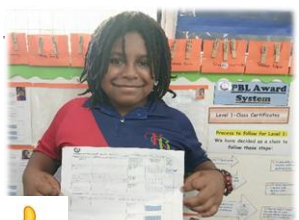
My goals have helped me to be more focused and I have purpose in my learning



Displaying our goals motivates me to keep working on my goals

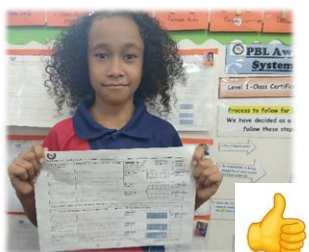


I am beginning to show progress in writing authentic action plans after feedback from my teacher



Korrysen is two goals away from receiving the Principal's award.



Debbie is a goal away from receiving the Principal's Award

KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# Welcome to KB Health & Wellness

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**

## Health Reminder – Cold and Flu Season Guidelines

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the cold and flu season, we want to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and families. To help minimise the spread of illness within our school community, we kindly ask for your cooperation in monitoring your child's health and keeping them home if they are show signs of illness.

Please keep your child home if they exhibit any of these symptoms:

- High or prolong fever
- Persistent cough
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle aches or fatigue
- Chills

If your child's symptoms are severe or persistent, please consult your healthcare provider promptly.

To support your child's recovery and help prevent the spread of illness, we recommend:

- Plenty of rest and fluids
- Nutritious meals
- Encouraging frequent handwashing and covering coughs or sneezes

Students should remain at home until:

- They have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Other symptoms are significantly improved

Your partnership in following these guidelines helps us maintain a healthier school environment for everyone.

Thank you for your attention and continued support.

Health & Wellness Team

Success…Being Your Own Best

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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

### WELCOME TO THE INFORMER

Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia on September 16, 1975, becoming one of the world's most culturally diverse nations.

With over 800 languages and countless tribes, unity has been both a strength and a challenge. Its rich natural resources have driven economic growth, but also sparked conflict and uneven development.

Political stability has fluctuated, yet democratic traditions have largely endured. Education, healthcare, and infrastructure remain priorities amid rapid population growth. PNG has taken a stronger role in regional affairs, especially within the Pacific Islands Forum.

As Papua New Guinea turns 50 on the 16th of September 2025, the nation reflects on its journey with pride and looks ahead with hope and positive attitude for the future of PNG.






# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

### WELCOME TO THE INFORMER

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## FATHER OF THE HOUSE: PITA LUS A POLITICAL ICON 1964–2002

### His birthday September 16, was picked as the official date for PNG's independence



A YOUNG Pita Lus at an official signing to begin his political journey.



Sir Pita Lus wore his trademark pig tusk necklace during his entire political career.



Sir Pita with Sir Pabbie Namathi of the PNG Speaks project.

LOVE him or hate him, from the time he first entered the conservative Parliament, its sitting would be lively, agitating, and sometimes controversial, as he constantly and unwaveringly without his presence in the chamber.

Pita Lus, who was affectionately known as the Father of the House, Pita Lus, the long-term Member of Parliament for Moresby North-West 1964-1968 though he was first elected into the House of Assembly as the Member for Port Moresby Open and then successively as Minister for Mapik, East Sepik Province until his death in 2002 at the age of 68.

In the long history of politics he rose, he is the only parliamentarian who has represented every seat he won from the colonial and pre-Independence House of Assembly to the National Parliament.

His identity is never mistaken with his trademark pig's tusk necklace, which he wore at all times, be it in the capital when entering his chamber or elsewhere on official duties.

Lus was made a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1977.

Sir Pita is also the only elected Member to have served in the whole of the 11 Parliaments in PNG's history (1964) and including the two House...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

"BECAUSE a white man hit me and I could not fight back, I wanted independence for my country so that I could be free of all the white people," Pita Lus.

"That is when I started fighting for independence for PNG.

"And I told Somare to get independence and get rid of all the white people.

His stirring of his experience since that time was told in countless speeches in the House and in his last two outings of New Ireland mainland in 2006 over three weeks with then Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare's Ling-Stanley.

Sir Pita's special affection for New Ireland was due to his mother's side the fact that he was a labourer in a plantation there during the colonial era.

**66**
*My name is Lus, I will never lose."*

SIR PETER LUS

That is where the white man started to hate me because I would work matters, and set him on course and defined his own conviction and I could not change him.

"I could not allow him back because of the consequences I would face," he said in 1977 in Parliament. "I was very angry, but I said we'll see.

Sir Pita's first mention of independence in the 1964 House of Assembly may have not been taken by the House as it was purposely aimed out because it would not have had any significance then.

Flashpoint, barbaristic, quick-witted and fast talker are some of the words used to characterise that can also best describe this well-known long serving politician.

A true blooded Papua New Guinean he couldn't care less about any critic's view of him as he was always an undiluted lover to this country, and especially Somare's leadership during the early years of transitional era and attainment of Independence.

Sir Pita's retirement Sir Pita was appointed Minister for Police but he was also appointed member of Somare's Pangu Pati executive.

At the end of every term in Parliament, he would famously announce his retirement from the brassmans forwarding other MPs saying to Yek Pisin: "Nem blong mi Pita Lus and nogut long, bai mi lusim long politik."

"Mi sori bat sampla blong rupela long gut kan bek, laud bai mi lusim long politik."

(My name is Lus, but I will not lose, but I am sorry that every some of you will not come back.)

These were his famous lines during the last sitting day of every parliamentary session.

He did that over seven consecutive terms.

His other famous quote while in Parliament when debating controversial issues was: "Just give me the Mosbi North-West seat, I will change this country."

Sir Pita Lus, as he is known also as it was said, he was a founding member of the Pangu Pati, he provided the great impetus to PNG's independence movement and remained a major figure and strong supporter of Somare and he acquired a reputation for fiery rhetoric and unruly parliamentary behaviour which frequently got him always seeking him to his colleagues strengthened his position as a politician to Independence.

Sir Pita Lus, in addition later wrote that, in the 1964-68 House of Assembly, there were only seven Papuans and one New Guinean, who stood out of them only one, John Guise, showed an ability to govern and the rest were simply there and were willing to speak aggressively.

Sir Pita was born on 16 September 1934 in Kerema, Gulf Province, in the Gogodala area of the South District.

Sir John Kapuris once wrote: "Sir Pita Lus was a man of many parts, a politician and a keen cannot, but, behind this façade, there was a man who was deeply concerned for the well-being and improvement of people with a lot of humour and punctuated with a touch of sarcasm and cynicism.

A favourite story of Sir Pita was that when Somare and others were negotiating for Papua New Guinea Independence, he slapped the table and finally exclaimed, "Let me pick up my gun and I will shoot you all and be a good dictator."

Chairperson Sir Pita laughed and told them it was his birthday.

It was only fitting then that his birthday was chosen by Somare and his Cabinet in respect to Pita Lus' life-long ambition, determination and dedication to ensure PNG did become an independent nation.



ON official duty just before boarding a plane.



SIR Pita Lus kept his extended family close to heart.



A TRADITIONALLY-attired welcoher greets Sir Pita.

SIGHT TX3H GSWNTWGO



CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## SIR J INTERVIEW ON PNG GOING FORWARD

GORETHY KENNETH
kenneth@opp.com.pg

*EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SIR J – a few weeks before his passing*
*Sir Julius Chan, one of the founding fathers of Papua New Guinea, has served twice as prime minister. Sadly, he passed away earlier this month. He received long enough to make it into the year of our country's Golden Jubilee. Just weeks before his passing, perhaps realising his time was limited, Sir Julius gave an exclusive interview with our Chief Political Journalist*

SIR Julius, our country's first finance minister, was in Rome when PNG celebrated Independence on September 16, 1975.

He remembered the solemnity of the moment.

"I shed tears of joy and sadness, the old had ended, and a new was ushered in," he said in an interview.

"I do remember very clearly the Australian flag being lowered, and the handing over of power to Prince Charles, now our King Charles III who then presented it to the Australian Governor General Sir John Kerr.

"The birth of the Papua New Guinea flag was historic, at that very moment, how I felt? ... well, very emotional.

"I received, a sensation of final achievement of a goal in life.

"I had my head down, first, I lifted my head up watching the flag being lowered, and then when the new flag was raised by the bearers, there was feeling of pride, sensation, I had a few tears.

"I think that, for the first time that I had finally broken free of the colonial yoke, that is when I knew we were free.

"It was probably the most memorable moment.

"You ask anybody why 16 September 1975 was chosen as the official date, I do not think they would know.

"Perhaps it was nominated because it was convenient for Australian Governor General Sir John Kerr or for Prince Charles, who was the Queen's special representative.

"George Whitlam or Prime Minister of Australia came, as well as Malcolm Fraser, who was then opposition leader.

"Australia had governed a nation of two and a half million people spread across an enormous, rugged land, and they had done a good job. It was time for us to govern ourselves appropriate for a country at that stage of development.

"That is the reason why power such as Britain or Germany would run PNG in a completely different way, Australia was a young country and it had only come into a Federation in 1901 and it was not entrenched in colonial rule.

*GK: So Sir J, what is your assessment of Papua New Guinea after 50 years and nearly 50 years of self-rule?*

"Self-rule for 50 years now, this year, before anything happens, you know, my greatest fear is that I will die, is that we make the best of what we have, never give up and don't expect anything from others to do everything.

CONTINUE PAGE 13



SIR Julius Chan speaking at a meeting.



SIR Julius Chan short appointed as PNG's first Finance Minister makes a point about establishing the foundations for a modern economy for the country and for its own currency in the Kina and the Toea.





SIR Julius being shown the positive results of investment in the poultry industry to create jobs and meet market demands in addition to government's initiative in effectively allocating financial resources.

FACTBOX

SIR JULIUS SUMOMEN CHAN

DATE OF BIRTH: 29 August 1938

DATE OF DEATH: 30 January 2025

PLACE OF BIRTH: Tanga Islands, New Ireland Province

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4 (Vanessa, Byron, Mark and Tosa)

WIFE: Lady Stella Chan

PARTY: Founder of Peoples Progress Party stepped down as party leader in 2016

TERM IN OFFICE: 10th term in this Parliament

CURRENT: Re-elected to the 11th National Parliament as Regional MP for New Ireland in 2022 and held the seat until his passing in January 2025.

EDUCATION: Studied Agriculture Science from University of Queensland, Brisbane, graduated at Dankook University, Seoul (1979)

OCCUPATION: Last worked as government cooperative society officer and businessman prior to be joining his political career.

ACHIEVEMENT: Obtained a Honorary Degree in Economics from the University of Dankok

Received the OBE in 1975, KBE in 1977, GCMG in 1989 for his services to business, politics and government

Appointed member of the Privy Council by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and was subsequently sworn in, in London on the 15th May 2002 and was also conferred upon of the Order of Logohu (OCL) in September 2005.

EARLY CAREER:
First elected to 2nd House of Assembly for Nanatanai Open seat in the 1968 general election

Elected Deputy Speaker and Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman and Leader of Government Business from 1968-1972

Founded and remained Leader of the People's Progress Party from November 1970 till exit from national politics in June 1997

Re-elected to 3rd House of Assembly 1st National Parliament in the 1972 General Elections for the same seat

FROM PAGE 12

Life is not meant to be easy and to achieve anything in life; we got to work for it, we all have to work for it.

On the week of midnight on September 15, 1975 a fireworks display at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium to signal the beginning of independence for Papua New Guinea.

The anticipation which we had flown since 1906, was lowered for the last time on September 16, 1975 when handed to Prince Charles, the heir to the throne of England who was on to Australia's Governor General Sir John Kerr.

All through the day and night, the beat of drums could be heard, the singing of songs and dancing, the bangins and monstrous islands danced in celebration of our new freedom.

Papua New Guinea, a country with a population of eight million people, most of whom lived in rural areas, faced an immediate problem 15 days before its independence.

On the unilateral declaration of independence made by a separatist movement on Bougainville on September 1, 1975.

The declaration posed a direct threat to the authority of the new central government, but it was ultimately dispelled.

Bougainville united as in the end we managed to stitch ourselves together.

Finally, Independence Day celebrations were massive and probably organised on a scale far superior to any other form of gathering in the country before or since.

On the morning of September 16, 1975, the flag of Australia was lowered at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby.

G K: Describe the scene for us on the day.

MALUM Nalu with Sir J during the launching of his book 'Playing the Game'.



very day the Australian flag was lowered and the PNG flag hoisted!

"The Australian flag was lowered, it stood tall, watched the flag bearers lowered the flag, folded it, and the last type of ceremony that should be held ended, and a new was beginning!

"Those were solemn moments.

"Emotions ran high as Papua New Guinea's flag was raised for the first time, and we managed to stitch ourselves together.

"Finally, Independence Day celebrations were massive and probably organised on a scale far superior to any other form of gathering in the country before or since.

"On the morning of September 16, 1975, the flag of Australia was lowered at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby.

"I have a lot of people crief out loud while others cried out of joy. This moment, filled with emotion, was etched in time as a proud moment of nationhood."





CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## THE START OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE

FINAL year architecture students from the School of Architecture and Building, Papua New Guinea University of Technology engaged in 1975 to collect data of the old House of Assembly to be used to design a new building to be used for new parliament house.

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

This exercise formed part of a final year assignment. The group of students were flown over from Lae to Port Moresby. The students were Peter Bugos, Ian Hall, Ian Hayward-Jones, Des Oakes and Ali Pom.

The head of the school, Professor Neville Kearey, accompanied the students to Port Moresby. Professor Kearey was then the only professor of his kind in Australasia and an effective founder of the design team.

The group was presented with a design brief, a booklet which showed the master plan of the new parliament house and its surrounds. The only prominent buildings in Waigani at the time were the administration and the so-called "pineapple" building.

The Post-Courier ran a special report on the new parliament house for its official opening on Monday August 6, 1984 just called the First true home for our leaders. Costing $24.6 million, the project took 13 years in conception from the time the Department of Constitutional Development under the chairmanship of Paulus Arek, MBE, MP for Kerema, served the tabling its findings to the House of Assembly in 1971.

The siting on the new parliament House had been a running controversy since the Australian days. Then it was accepted. Des Rogers, then the assistant director (architecture) in the Department of Works and Supply had submitted his in 1971.

On December 2, 1977, the then-Minister for Works announced a new design competition would be held, following criticism of the design for the new parliament house had been chosen in May 1976. Works and Supply Minister Sir Tei Abal had also announced, minister of the design contest. But five months later, Sir Tei announced that Rogan design.

**BUILDER**

By June 1978, the government and architect Bill Phillips were reported to be "very close to agreement" on Phillip's design for the complex. The government subsequently paid Phillips $100,000 for the design and other services with the Phillip's design. Sir Phillips was also the architect for the Bomana War Cemetery, although his design was not used.

In August 1980, New Zealand-based Fletcher Construction was awarded the contract to build Parliament House. Fletcher Construction had formed a joint management team headed by Ron Burgess of the Consultant firm Ron Burgess Pty Ltd.

Four years later, Parliament House was virtually completed for the opening of the Fifth Parliament.

Other additional things came in later that altered this figure though. But of the cost at time of completion of the construction phase, the total cost of the House, as Minister Peter Barter, was made up of the following components:

- Building: K19,585,000
- Supervision: K 1,525,000
- Fees: K 2,000,000
- Furniture & Fittings: K3,450,000
- Independence Hall: K135,000

Mr Burgess referred to the project as the "50,000-tonne baby." The "baby" composed of:

- 13,300 cubic metres of concrete;
- 1,500 tonnes of reinforcing steel;
- 1500 tonnes of reinforcing steel, and was built on
- 30,000 square metres of floor areas.

The expansive steep of roof covered 9000 square metres.

**THE SUN AND THE MOON**

At the imposing main entrance is the sun and moon. It shows two warriors – a male and a female, surrounded by symbolic images representing the spectrum of life. The female is encompassed by the full moon and the male.

The public gallery is designed to seat 400.

The PNG parliament was first created in 1964 as the House of Assembly, a body of 64 representatives. The building used as the House of Assembly was originally built as a temporary hospital. Some years ago the building was given a new role as a museum/library.

The new House was in Waigani was opened by HE Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, when he visited PNG in 1984 and was invited but she decided to send the heir-apparent to the British throne in his place.

The Papua New Guinea parliament is a single chamber legislature consisting of 109 elected representatives. The chamber is the main meeting room where formal sittings of the House are held.

There are two main sections to the floor of parliament where the Speaker presides over sittings. Here elected representatives and parliamentary staff can enter the floor of the chamber.

There is the addition to this and that is ceremonial occasions. If the Governor-General is present in parliament and must be respected always.

All parliamentary mace shows a stylised representation on the Mace, a ceremonial club that signifies the authority of parliament and is placed in front of the Speaker.

The Mace is carried into parliament by the Sergeant-at-Arms in front of the Speaker when the Speaker enters parliament. It is also carried in any way at the start of the daily sitting.

The Mace is made of silver, heavily gilded with gold. The head is made of the head is a polished stone ball, symbolic of a stone war club used by the people in the highlands part of PNG. The Australian Commonwealth Government presented the Mace to the people of PNG during the opening of the first House of Assembly on June 6, 1964.

**GRAND ENTRANCE**

The Grand Entrance depicts all walks of life with the sun bobbing down.

At the time of official opening, Hundreds and group pictures of King James Bible in the House, Prime Minister's office, the Speaker's chamber and his administrative block are linked by a covered driveway and the dining/day roof.

His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, was told centre stage on August 6, 1984 for the opening ceremony.



MONDAY AUGUST 6, 1984: The newly-built Parliament Building at Waigani. POST-COURIER ARCHIVES



Opening Of Parliament

First true home for our leaders

The K24 million structure at Waigani is the first true home for our nation's elected leaders.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1984: The Post-Courier article on the first true home for the Papua New Guinean elected leaders at Waigani. POST-COURIER ARCHIVES



PARLIAMENT grounds crew busy on initial landscaping prior to the opening of the current parliament house in 1984. POST-COURIER ARCHIVES



ALL EYES ON THE HOUSE

Post Courier

Busy week for nation's capital

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1984: POST-COURIER article on the official opening of the K23.4m Parliament building, which was officially opened by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, on Aug 8, 1984. POST-COURIER ARCHIVES

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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

*The National Parliament turns 41 on August 7, 2025*

BY JEFFREY ELAPA
jelapa@postcourier.com.pg

The National Parliament is a magnificent structure that symbolises Papua New Guinea's nationhood and is hailed as a national pride and a national symbol.

The majestic structure was officially opened on Tuesday, August 7, 1984 by the then Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, on behalf of the Queen.

PNG's Parliament was first created in 1964 as the House of Assembly and was housed in the building now known as the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in 1975 when Papua New Guinea became self-governing.

The House of Assembly building, which was built in the 1960s, quickly, had been transformed into the National Parliament.

When PNG gained independence it was decided to build a new house of Parliament, which will also house the National and Supreme Courts and the National Museum and Art Gallery.

The old House of Assembly building has been demolished and will be replaced by a new national history museum, with other parts of the land taken over by private developers.

Forty-one years ago, on the occasion of the opening of the House, the then Governor-General Sir John Guise said Parliament House was a fitting symbol of PNG's determination to govern itself and to be truly a free and independent nation.

"The people have helped build her more closely with other Commonwealth countries and throughout the world, going on to describe the K34.8 million building as a magnificent and magnificent National building.

More than 600 people, including the Queen, were present at the official opening and witnessed it from the public gallery while another 20,000 people outside the building watched the ceremony on television.

The then Prince said the House was a symbol of PNG's determination to run the parliamentary democratic system of Government.

"The Parliament House was the late Gough Clerk for the Queen's Works Authority, now Department of Works and Highways, who supervised the building.

In July 1980, Sir Robert based company Fletcher Construction was awarded the contract to build the parliament under the supervision of a project management team headed by Mr Hall and Mr Hurley of the Public Works and Highways.

The building cost K24.5 million and was completed in time for the official opening ceremony and, in the words of Mr Hall, was "a well-built, well-designed building".

Mr Hall said he was pleased and congratulated the people of PNG on the completion of the building and one of the finest in the world.

He believed that over the 40 years, PNG had proved itself to be a worthy member of the family of parliamentary democracy with, a free and independent Parliament.

> "The iconic building was truly a Parliament to be proud of and honoured the country's visionary forefathers who pioneered an institution that fosters sovereignty of our nation."
>
> KALA AUPA - CLERK OF PARLIAMENT



THE old House of Assembly building today refurbished.



SESSION underway in the old House of Assembly

The Parliament Service, the custodian of the building, shares a similar sentiment with Mr Hall as the future generation of Papua New Guineans are able to walk the halls of Parliament House and be proud of its heritage and history which was refined by Papua in 1984.

Mr Hall said the legacy of a parliament house which is a cornerstone of a functioning democracy is a testament to the vision of those who built the building and to the enduring spirit of a nation that has persevered through age-old challenges. The building stands as a symbol of unity, resilience and the promise of a bright future.

Then Governor, decided to remove a totem pole in the grand hall and 39 masks that formed a lined across the Parliament House.

Citing Christian principles, Governor said the traditional totem poles and masks were a symbol and respect for ancestral spirits. Chimbu Governor Kelly Gegeyo condemned the MPs, including former prime minister Sir Michael Somare, with new MPs calling for his sacking.

The Post-Courier carried a sustained campaign against the removal of the totem poles and the decision of the country.

But Parkinson was adamant and said that the totem poles would be removed following the massive outcry.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### AMENT HOUSE



PARLIAMENT in session, 2025.

FROM PAGE 20

He was known to be tough by the Mitchell and other concerned groups and individuals who saw the building as a symbol of PNG's sovereignty and not to destroy and replace it with a new building.

Five years later, in 2018, Parliament House was in the news again. This time, the Speaker, Jeffrey Nape, and his personnel who were dispossessed of the building by Prime Minister James Marape and his supporters.

It has been the venue for national events, including the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting and providing a platform for the visiting heads of state and government to address the nation.

On last the 40th anniversary of Parliament House, the Speaker, Jeffrey Nape, said the building was a symbol of PNG's democracy, representing the aspirations of the people and providing a peaceful future for all generations.

**PROTECTING A NATIONAL SYMBOL**

Nape said Parliament House was a symbol of PNG's democracy and freedom. He said he was to keep the building safe and secure for the future generations.

He said on the country's turn to, we must protect the building from any threats that may arise, whether from the people, not around from Parliament House, but from within.

Nape said Papua New Guinea's Parliament House was built by the people of PNG and it belongs to the people, and should not be used for political gain.

**POLITICAL REPRESENTATION**

Nape said the building was a symbol of unity, where people from different backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs come together to represent their constituencies, debate, and make decisions that affect the nation.

"Throughout its existence, Parliament House has been a place of debate, discussion, and progress, where the voices of the people have been heard, and where the future of the nation has been shaped.

"As we look to the future, we must ensure that Parliament House continues to be a symbol of unity, democracy, and progress, for all Papua New Guineans, and for generations to come."

National Parliament

Parliament House has undergone significant renovations and expansions to accommodate the elected members and their staff.

The building has been expanded to include a new wing, which houses additional offices, meeting rooms, and facilities for the MPs.

The renovations have also included the installation of new technology, such as video conferencing equipment and electronic voting systems.

The building has undergone several renovations and expansions since it was first built in 1984.

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The new Parliament House.

In the political history of the country, there have been a number of significant events that have taken place in the House of Assembly, including the passing of the Papua New Guinea Independence Act in 1975, which led to the country gaining its independence from Australia.

The House of Assembly has also been the site of many debates and discussions on important issues facing the country, including the development of the country's natural resources, the management of its economy, and the provision of services to the people.

Some of the most notable events that have taken place in the House of Assembly include the passing of the Organic Law on Provincial Governments and Local-level Governments in 1995, which established the provincial and local-level governments in PNG, and the passing of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 10) in 2001, which established the Ombudsman Commission.

Francesca Semoso, was elected to succeed Sarah Mesulam in a by-election held on Monday, March 3, 2025, making her the second female MP elected to the House of Assembly.

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### FROM BAREFOOT VILLAGE BOY TO CEO:

BY JEFFREY ELAPA
jelapa@postcourier.com.pg

PETER O'Neill was born on 15 February 1960, to his parents Jerry and Mary O'Neill, a teacher, originally from Kerema in the Gulf Province, but settled in the Central part of the country, representing the Kairuku-Hiri district in the Central Province, Peter O'Neill was born and raised in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea, and grew up in a family of seven children, growing up in a modest household. He did not belong to any political party, but was a member of the Pangu Pati.

His father, Jerry O'Neill, was a prominent figure in the country and was one of the founding members of the Pangu Pati in 1967, and was a member of the Parliament of Papua New Guinea from 1968 to 1972.

In 1981, at the age of 16, he moved to Australia to pursue his education. He graduated from high school in Australia after two years and went straight to the University of Papua New Guinea in 1982 and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy in 1986.

He practised accountancy in Port Moresby for a year, then he returned to Australia to pursue his master's degree in Accountancy in 1988 after.

> "And I think it's important that we allow the next generation of leaders to build from some of the experience that they are building now to guide the country going forward."
>
> PETER O'Neill

He returned to Papua New Guinea in the early 1990s and worked in the banking sector for a few years, then he returned to Australia to pursue his master's degree in Accountancy in 1988 after.



Peter O'Neill was the seventh prime minister of Papua New Guinea from 2011 to 2019, a total of eight years.

He was the leader of the People's National Congress and has been the member for Ialibu-Pangia since 2002, representing the Southern Highlands Province electorate and the capital Port Moresby. New roads and bridges took shape in the country's capital city. The Pacific Games was also played to cater for the 2015 Games. He resigned as Prime Minister in May 2019 and supported James Marape to become the Prime Minister. Peter O'Neill was our founder (JEFFREY ELAPA) as the 2017 National General Election and he took over as the plans to retire from politics to allow the younger generation to take over.

**GROWING UP**

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### THE LIFE STORY OF PETER O'NEILL



PETER O'Neill with Sir Julius Chan.

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

BY BARNEY ORERE

PAPUA New Guinea has elected no parliamentary since since independence. At the time of going to press, there will be a period of five decades or 16 years which is the age of the country.

1. Dame Josephine Abaijah – Governor Central, Governor NCD and Governor Milne Bay (Never ever done before) 1972-1982
2. Naihau Rooney – MP Manus – 1977-87
3. Waliuato Clowes – MP for Middle Fly – 1977-82
4. Dame Carol Kidu – MP Moresby North 1997-2012 – Minister for Social Development by Prime Minister Somare and part of her second term was Opposition Leader.
5. Loujaya Kouza – MP Lae 2012-2017
6. Julie Soso – first female Governor of Eastern Highlands 2012-2017
7. Delilah Gore – MP Sohe – 2012-2017
8. Martha Peter – Female Governor Central – 2022-current
9. Kessy Sawang – MP Rai Coast – 2022-current appointed Minister for Labour and Industrial Relations by Prime Minister James Marape in July 2023.

The two current MPs (2022) become the eighth and ninth female elected since PNG gained Independence in 1975.

One of PNG's best known former MPs, Dame Carol Kidu, mentored both Sawang and Peter and several others who stood in the election.

In 2022, Dame Carol conducted community workshops in eight electorates, where women who had polled well in the 2017 election were standing again.

The Vote Women for Change workshops were facilitated by Australian women's political representation in parliament, was funded by the Australian National University and the Australian Government.

The eight women in those seats were invited to support one another during the campaign leading up to the coming. At the end of the 2022 National General Election, the group came back together at a beach outside Port Moresby to debrief, plan for the next five years, and to talk about how they can all continue to support the two women who made it across the line. Reviews of previous elections have found that female candidates are particularly disadvantaged by the corruption, violence and money politics in PNG's elections.

As the two new MPs began their political journey, Dame Carol sounded something of a warning.

"They are very, very competent women – I would say they are statesmen.

"But it's going to be very hard for them, because when it gets to parliament it will get quite rowdy. So I have no doubt that when they'll cope well with the difficulties."

> "e need a balance to get a decent future for Papua New Guinea, I don't see a good future for Papua New Guinea with no women in parliament, I'm not saying women are better than men, and there are some very good men in parliament, but we need a balance."
>
> DAME CAROL KIDU



DAME Josephine Abaijah.



LATE Mrs Nahau Rooney. PICTURE – SOLOMON TIMES

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**RESERVED SEATS FOR WOMEN**

There had been a plan to introduce reserved seats for women, but the prime minister ruled that out.

"Women can win on merit — we don't need special seats for women," Mr Marape said. "If women want to enter Parliament, let's do it on merit."

When asked if reserved seats would be considered, Mr Marape instead focused on Australia's record.

"It took 40 years for Australia to produce its first female member of parliament, it took three years for Papua New Guinea to produce two members of parliament, never forget this," he told the ABC.

Although the idea of five regional electorates for women was intended as a Temporary Special Measure, the coalition of concerned women leaders opposed the concept arguing it was unsustainable and was not representative of women. They opposed the idea of five regional seats for women meaning its 22 seats for women.

> "It took 40 years for Australia to produce its first female member of parliament, it took three years for Papua New Guinea to produce two members of parliament. Never forget this."
>
> PM JAMES MARAPE

**THE FIVE SEATS IDEA EMERGED ON MARCH 24, 2016.**

They said the idea was unsustainable and did not truly represent women who make up 51 per cent of the population. We are against Temporary Special Measure, said the women.

The submission was sent to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Based Violence that the spirit of women's representation in Parliament is being guided by the following principles:

- To recognize that there are two critical issues that must be brought to the attention of government, such as those that affect the well-being of our nation, they said. However, such agenda warrants a separate stream of activities to identify opportunities and strategies for redress, the women pointed out.

They emphasized in the submission to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Based Violence that the spirit of women's representation in Parliament is being guided by the following principles:

- To support TSM, in particular, the implementation of the Equality and Participation Law 2011 (constitutional amendment No.22), certified by the acting Speaker on 28th December 2011 as a law "Made by the National Parliament to come into operation on the issue of writs for the 2012 General Elections"

**WOMAN MP JAILED**

Naihau Rooney who served as Minister for Justice in Prime Minister Michael Somare's cabinet in 1977 was sentenced to a nine-month jail term for contempt. She was immediately released on license by Somare.

In 1979 during her term as Minister, she wrote to director of public prosecutions, Kevin Eales to withdraw charges laid by police on her husband, Sir Albert Rooney, for being charged with failing to file income tax returns. As a result Eales had her sentenced to a nine-month jail term for contempt. She later served as Minister for Civil Aviation.

First elected to parliament in 1977 for the Manus regional seat, Mrs Rooney was one of three women elected to parliament. She was re-elected in 1982 becoming the only female Member of Parliament. She was a true-federal politician and commanded attention.

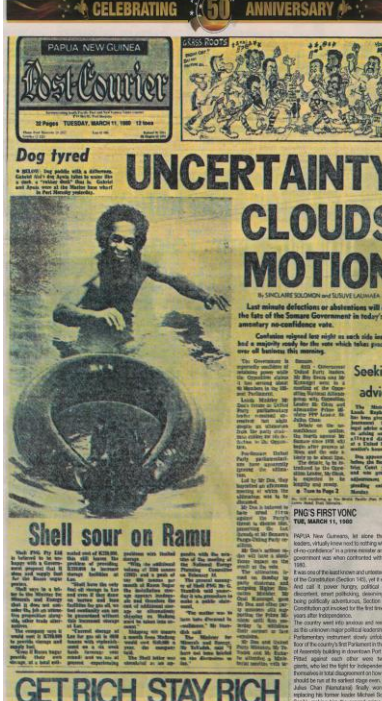
At the imposing main entrance to Parliament House, a statue of Rooney in the ceremonial garb, is shown, her hands – a symbol of a female, both guarding the entrance.



CONCERNED women leaders in Port Moresby.

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY



PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Post Courier
32 Pages TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1980 12 Toea

Dog tyred

**UNCERTAINTY CLOUDS MOTION**

BY SINCLAIRE SOLOMON and SUSUVE LAGUNAYA

Last minute defections or abstentions will decide the fate of the Somare Government in today's Parliamentary no-confidence vote.

Confusion reigned last night as each side insisted it had a majority ready for the vote which takes precedence over all business this week.

Seeking advice

PNG'S FIRST VONC
TUE, MARCH 11, 1980

Shell sour on Ramu

GET RICH STAY RICH

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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**



CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

# SIR MICHAEL SOMARE WALKED THE DREAM

*One of the people who knew him well was Dame Carol Kidu, widow of PNG's first Chief Justice, Sir Buri Kidu; who entered Parliament and served as Minister.*

SIR MICHAEL SOMARE

*SOMARE was born in 1936 in Rabaul, where his father was serving as a policeman in the colonial administration, but returned to his father's home province of East Sepik at an early age. His schooling began in Wewak during the Japanese occupation of New Guinea and continued at Finschhafen High School and Teachers College at Sogeri. During the 1950s and 1960s Somare taught in New Ireland, East Sepik and Madang, served as an interpreter for the Legislative Council and the first House of Assembly, and worked as a broadcast officer with the Department of Information and Extension Services.*

1974 Sydney Morning Herald picture of Chief Minister Somare and Queen Elizabeth II.

*Sir Michael is a traditional Chief (Sana) of his clan in Karau village, East Sepik. Sir Michael served four terms as Prime Minister, from 1975 – 1980, from 1982-1985, and 2002-2010.*

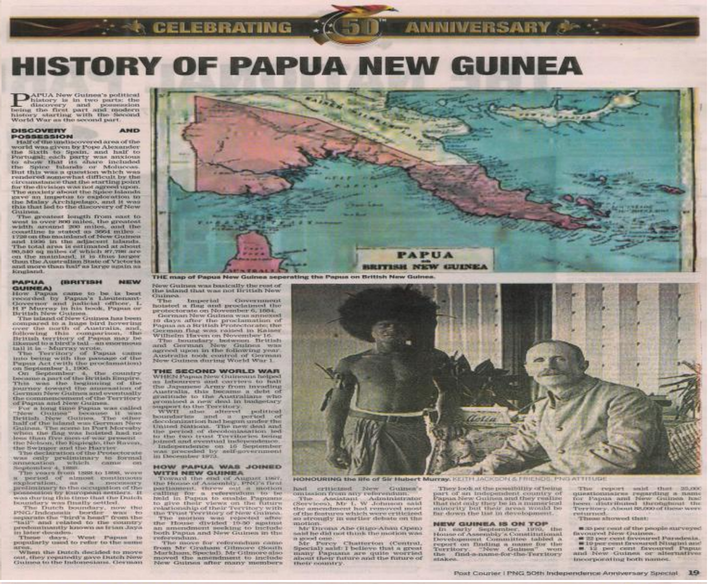


CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

# CATHOLIC PILLAR

# Chimbu to have govt by March

*He was simple man, a servant leader and that Catholic faith was demonstrated in the way he led this country.*



CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

# HISTORY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The map of Papua New Guinea showing the demarcation separating the Papua on British New Guinea.



CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

# SPEAKERS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

*As PNG celebrates 50 years of independence, reporter Jeffrey Elapa reflects on the Speakers, who dedicated their lives to nation-building.*

SIR Kingsford Dibela

The first House of Assembly Speaker Major Sir Horrie Niall.

KNOW YOUR SPEAKERS



# IEA

# IEA PNG at 50

## A Legacy of Education and Transformation

*(Part 1)*

In the landscape of Papua New Guinea's education sector, the International Education Agency (IEA) stands as one of the most enduring and trusted providers of quality learning. As IEA celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2026, its journey from a post-independence initiative to a national leader in private education is both remarkable and deeply tied to the country's own story of growth and self-determination.

**The Early Foundations**

The IEA's origins trace back to 1976, a year after Papua New Guinea gained independence. Recognising the need for continuity and quality in international-standard education—especially for expatriate and professional families, the PNG Department of Education established the IEA to manage and sustain former "A" schools (Australian schools) previously run under the colonial administration.
On January 26, 1977, the IEA was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, with a mandate to offer private education services. It was re-registered in 2023, continuing its commitment to educational excellence in a modern context.

**A New Chapter After Independence**

Prior to independence, PNG's education system operated under a dual structure: the 'A' (Australian) schools and 'T' (Territory) schools. 'A' schools primarily catered to expatriate children and closely mirrored the Australian curriculum, while 'T' schools served the local population. Although there were efforts to upgrade 'T' schools to the same academic standard, progress was limited and, by 1975, Papua New Guineans made up only a small portion of enrolments in 'A' schools.

After independence, it quickly became apparent that the 'A' school system was financially unsustainable under the new government. In response, the IEA was created to ensure continuity in quality education without burdening the state. Over the years, it transitioned into a fully-fledged private provider, committed to a more inclusive and future-focused model.

**Expansion and Impact**

Over five decades, the IEA has grown to operate 18 international schools and a national TAFE college, providing education from early childhood through to Grade 12, alongside vocational and workplace training. With schools in all major centres of PNG, the IEA has played a vital role in shaping the country's educational landscape.

IEA schools are known not only for academic quality, but also for their commitment to individual learner needs, inclusive practices, and supportive school environments. The organisation continues to uphold values of care, community, and innovation, reflecting both international standards and local aspirations.

In 2016, the IEA marked 40 years of service with the publication of a commemorative book, chronicling its history and contributions to Papua New Guinea. That milestone captured just how far the organisation had come — from a response to post-colonial challenges to becoming a respected education provider in its own right.

*Michael (Later Sir Michael) Somare, Prime Minister of PNG from 1982 to 1985 (as well as several other periods) addressing a student assembly at the Port Moresby High in 1985*

**Coming Soon in Part 2: A Future-Ready IEA**

*In Part 2 of this feature, we will explore where the IEA stands today — its achievements in the last decade, its evolving role in the digital and global education space, and the exciting vision that is shaping the next 50 years.*

**Stay tuned**

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# KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

**WELCOME TO THE INFORMER**



THE NATION BUILDING NEWSPAPER anniversary edition

Post-Courier

SINCE 1969 TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

ISSUE 2 OF 11 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITIONS

SIR MICHAEL SOMARE

SIR JULIUS CHAN

PAIAS WINGTI

SIR RABBIE NAMALIU

SIR WILLIAM SKATE

SIR MEKERE MORAUTA

PETER O'NEILL

OUR CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE SINCE 1975

SIR PITA LUS, widely regarded as the most colourful MP during the 50-year history of the Parliament and (at right) the prime ministers of PNG since 1975.

MAIN: Old House of Assembly in downtown Port Moresby (top) and the current Parliament House in Waigani.

POST-COURIER ARCHIVES EXCLUSIVE EDITION 2025

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

OUR PRIME MINISTERS SINCE INDEPENDENCE

1999 - 2002 MEKERE MORAUTA

2002 - 2011 MICHAEL SOMARE

2011 - 2019 PETER O'NEILL

2019 - 2025 JAMES MARAPE

CONTINUE FROM P5

HIS grassroots appeal was credited for his quick rise in politics. After the election, he managed to string together a coalition, however fragile, that enabled him to win the prime minister's seat.

But things were already on a downward spiral for PNG. Economic regression was worsening, law and order was getting out of control in Port Moresby and the rest of PNG, and public discontentment grew louder and wider. Skate didn't have the answers, or so it seemed.

One thing he was credited with though, was helping to re-establish dialogue with the rebels on Bougainville following the Sandline disaster.

A series of embarrassing diplomatic blunders, headlined by his failed and embarrassing "cheque-book diplomacy" deal with Taiwan in 1999, bad decisions and corruption and bribery scandals marred Skate's rule which, not surprisingly, lasted for only one year. When the powerful head of the Catholic Church, Sir Brian Barnes, told Skate to resign in a powerful Easter message, the writing was on the wall.

**MEKERE MORAUTA: THE REFORMIST**

Skate was forced to resign, and following days of uncertainty and politicing, Mekere Morauta was voted prime minister.

And, as it turned out, Mekere was exactly what PNG needed at the time - an economist who would go on to reform the country's economical and political landscape to drag the country back from the brink and set it on the path to recovery.

He resigned until the 2002 national elections, which was enough time for his government to push through sweeping reforms that would go on to stabilise PNG's political landscape and economy for years after his rule.

His privatisation policy, however unpopular at that time, resulted in a lot of institutional strengthening in the private and semi-government sector. It also resulted in the growth of what is now the biggest commercial bank in PNG, when the government-owned Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation was privatised, and stronger superannuation laws, among others.

He took a knife through the public service and cut down its size to improve service delivery, introduced reforms and removed political interference.

In politics, he introduced new laws, including the crucial Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates, which removed all the political instability that had crippled PNG since 1975.

The introduction of that law directly resulted in the longest reign of a single prime minister in the short history of PNG, when Somare's new National Alliance party swept to power and remained in power for the next eight years.

Morauta's reforms were extensive and effective, impacting the public service and politics to the superannuation, tax and financial sectors.

After he left government, his reforms truly showed, and he was hailed as the prime minister who rescued PNG from the brink of collapse and set it on the path to economic recovery.

**SOMARE RETURNS WITH A DIFFERENT PARTY**

Many politicians that time did not like Morauta's changes, especially his privatisation agenda, and wowed to reverse some of his initiatives.

In the 2002 elections, Somare, who had left Pangu and formed the National Alliance party, returned with 19 seats, five more than Morauta's DPM. He formed a coalition with other parties and banished Morauta to the Opposition benches.

One of the first things he did was do away with some of Morauta's privatisation initiatives.

His term this time was remembered for political stability. Ironically, it was Morauta's political reforms that have allowed him to enjoy a full term in office, something never done up to this point in time.

He set about advancing the peace process following the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement the previous year and set about re-establishing his leadership.

He went to the 2007 elections in a position of great strength as a result of that stability, returned with a big number 27 seats, and once again formed government.

With one year left before the next elections, he went away to seek medical attention abroad for about three months.

Sam Abal, whose later father Tei was with Somare in the pre-independence days, was deputy prime minister, and was in the hot seat when Somare was seeking medical assistance in Singapore.

**PETER O'NEILL STORMS TO POWER**

In August 2011, the Opposition was getting fed up with Somare's absence. Led by Peter O'Neill, Belden Namah and a majority of other parliamentarians, including those in Somare's own party, they declared a vacancy in leadership on the floor of parliament and voted Peter O'Neill in as prime minister.

When Somare returned around September of that year, a serious constitutional dispute ensued. Two rival prime ministers and governments laid claim to legal leadership, splitting State institutions and leaders in two factions.

On one side was Somare, who had the support of the courts, while on the other side was O'Neill and the Parliament plus a majority of State institutions.

This protracted dispute came to be known as the "political impasse" that continued to December of that year, when the Governor-General leaned towards O'Neill's faction, effectively ending Somare's claim to leadership.

O'Neill's rule was marked by improved infrastructure developments, including roads and bridges in rural areas, and extensive expenditures in urban areas for the 2015 Pacific Games and 2018 APEC Summit in Port Moresby, which he has been praised for bringing to PNG for the first time.

After the 2012 elections he returned with the numbers to form government. And thanks largely to Morauta's reforms and his political smarts, he remained until the 2017 elections after which he also managed to form the government.

But in early 2019, politics again reared its ugly head.

**JAMES MARAPE REJUVENATES PANGU**

James Marape, who was O'Neill's finance minister, resigned in early 2019 in protest over a series of what he and others called were bad decisions by the O'Neill government. A lot of parliamentarians that time reckoned that he was in power for too long and there has to be a change.

Marape's resignation set off a series of moves that eventually led to the resignation of O'Neill in May of that year, and Marape was voted in as prime minister on the floor of Parliament.

When he left O'Neill's political party, Marape was asked to lead the old Somare party, Pangu, which, interestingly, had made a comeback in the 2012 national elections.

So when Marape joined Pangu, the party automatically became the ruling party once again.

He took the party to the 2022 national elections, and came back with a whopping 30 seats, the biggest return by any political party since the same Pangu party way back in the 1982 elections.

**PANGU IS BACK**

Yes, it would seem that way. Call it a coincidence if you want, but PANGU is back in charge as the country prepares to celebrate its 50th year of nationhood in September this year.

The party was there right from the start, lost its way, almost went into extinction, but was revived, and by smart political maneuvering, the Morauta reforms, and strong party leadership, PANGU roared back into the national political scene to take its rightful place as the country reached its great milestones.

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CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Somare ousted in dissent vote

Consultation is key

THE Post-Courier front page covering the country's first vote of no-confidence, when Julius Chan ousted Michael Somare as prime minister, in 1980. POST-COURIER ARCHIVES

**DISSENT VOTES OUSTED SOMARE IN 1980**

BY PETER SEA psea@spp.com.pg

*Uncertainty hung heavy over Parliament and Waigani on the eve of the Opposition's motion of no-confidence against the Prime Minister Michael Somare in March 1980.*

It was Tuesday, March 11. Both sides of the House claimed they had the numbers to win the vote.

The Opposition, headed by firebrand Chimbu MP Iambakey Okuk, had named Sir Julius Chan, leader of the People's Progress Party (PPP) and Simbu Open MP, as the alternative prime minister.

The *Post-Courier*'s political team of senior reporters Sinclair Solomon and Suisie Laumaea, given the unclear numbers, predicted that last minute defections and abstentions would decide the outcome of the vote. The reporters said confusion had reigned the night before as each side insisted it had a majority ready for the vote.

The government was reportedly confident of retaining power while the Opposition claimed it had secured 60 members in the 109-seat parliament.

The United Party was split with parliamentary leader Raphael Dea (Western Highlands), who was Lands Minister, opting to remain with the government despite an ultimatum from the party chairman calling for his defection to the Opposition.

The pro-Somare United Party parliamentarians had apparently ignored the ultimatum.

Dea stood firm against the party's threat to dismiss him, preserving the last threads of Somare's Pangu-United coalition.

Dea's actions on the floor of Parliament will have a significant impact on the result of the vote. With him were United Party MPs Martin ToVadek (Gazelle) and Wesley Embahe (Sohe) at a meeting with Mr Somare.

Anti-government United Party MPs Roy Evara (Kikori) and Opai Kuiangai (Anglimp-South Wagh) attended a meeting of the Opposition group, with Opposition Leader Mr Okuk and alternative prime minister Julius Chan.

The vote was the fourth moved against Somare since 1978 and the debate was expected to be lengthy and rowdy. The Opposition reorganised its sitting arrangements for the vote, placing former ministers Fr John Momis (Bougainville), John Kapuin (Sabusi) and Evara in its front benches.

The process of the vote needed only 37 MPs on the floor of Parliament. The government considered this the toughest parliamentary challenge it had faced and had initiated a program of intense lobbying for two weeks.

Only one MP, Opposition frontbencher Silas Atopare (Goroka), was out of town for personal reasons and would not vote.

The next day, Wednesday, March 12, 1980, the *Post-Courier* headline read "Somare ousted in dissent vote".

Chan and a composite Opposition alliance successfully forced PNG's first post-Independence change of government.

He was sworn-in as prime minister the night before, having defeated Somare 57-49 in the vote.

> *"We will not be disruptive, but give the new government all the support they need if we believe it is in the best interest of PNG."*
> SIR MICHAEL SOMARE

The vote ended a two-year Opposition struggle to wrest power from the Somare government.

Somare congratulated Chan soon after Speaker Kingsford Dibela (Alotau) announced the results of the vote at 6.08pm.

"We will not be disruptive, but give the new government all the support they need if we believe it is in the best interest of PNG," Somare declared.

Chan's caretaker Cabinet would include former Opposition Leader Iambakey Okuk, Deputy Opposition Leader Galeva Kwarara (Gigo), Roy Evara and Melanesian Alliance co-leader Fr John Momis. The full Cabinet was named later in the week.

The Opposition alliance defended one dissent motion and voted for another on its way to winning the vote.

The numbers were clearly in favour of Sir Julius when Parliament voted 57-48 to uphold a ruling by Dibela that the dissent motion was out of order. Somare remained calm as the announcement of the vote, although earlier, he tried unsuccessfully to refer the legality of the motion to the Supreme Court.

Dibela upheld Somare's motion after seeking legal advice, but a dissent motion by Joseph Asoe (Kairuku-Hiri) overruled Dibela's decision 57-47.

A successful Opposition motion on the suspension of Standing Orders then allowed Okuk to address Parliament on his no-confidence motion. Somare replied to Okuk's statement before Thomas Kavali (Jimi) gagged debate to force a vote on the motion.

Chan was swamped by well-wishers soon after Parliament rose at about 6.10pm. Hundreds of people waited outside a packed Parliament to hear the outcome of the vote.

IEA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AGENCY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
FROM DAY ONE TO YEAR 50 - GROWING WITH PNG

10 Post Courier / PNG 50th Independence Anniversary Special

***Source: Post Courier|PNG 50th Independence Anniversary Special| Tuesday, August 5, 2025***

KOROBORO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# IMPORTANT DATES

WELCOME TO THE INFORMER

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### Week 4

**Monday 04/08:** Public Speaking **Class** Competitions begins

**Friday 08/08:** The Informer # 11 goes out

### Week 5

**Friday 15/08:** Principal's Awards – Koro

**Friday 15/08:** Public Speaking **Class** Competition ends

### Week 6

**Monday 18/08:** Principal's Awards – Boro

**Thursday 21/08:** Public Speaking competitions - Boro

**Friday 22/08:** Public Speaking competitions – Koro

**Friday 22/08:** The Informer # 12 goes out

### Week 7

**Monday 25/08:** Pupil Free Day

**Tuesday 26/08:** Public Holiday – Repentance Day

### Week 8

**Wednesday 03/09:** POMIS Grade 6 Talk - TBC

**Friday 05/09:** Father's Day Assembly - Boro

**Friday 05/09:** The Informer # 13 goes out

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