

## THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

The Speaker, Sir Allan Kemakeza took the chair at 9:30am.

Prayers.

### ATTENDANCE

At prayers, all were present with the exception of the Ministers for Public Service; Environment, Conservation & Meteorology & Disaster Management Culture; Culture & Tourism; Agriculture & Livestock Development; and the Members for North Guadalcanal; West New Georgina; Ngella; Rennell & Bellona; East Kwaio; Temotu Pele; Gao/Bugotu; North West Guadalcanal; South Guadalcanal; North East Guadalcanal; West Are Are; Ulawa/Ugi and Malaita Otter Islands.

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

- Annual Report of the Auditor-General 2010 (*National Parliament Paper No. 18 of 2011*)

### **MOTIONS**

#### **Special Adjournment Motion**

**Mr Speaker:** Honourable Members, as members are aware, the honourable Prime Minister had only been elected yesterday and he needs to organise his government. He sought my permission to move this motion without notice relating to adjournment of this meeting. Accordingly, I have granted my permission under Standing Order 26 (1) and now call on the honourable Prime Minister to move his motion."

**Hon. GORDON DARCY LILO** (*Prime Minister*): Thank you for granting leave to move this special adjournment motion.

Sir, as you are aware because of the situation that has happened yesterday, I beg to move that at its adjournment today, Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Parliament should stand adjourn until Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. The reason being, as you have rightly alluded to is to allow the Government side to organize itself for appointment of the Cabinet and also formalities for swearing in of new ministers can also take place. Hopefully, this can be done within the next few days. By the end of the week we should commence the swearing in of the new cabinet. With that it should enable us to continue with the remaining part of the meeting for the government to present the business to this House. With these remarks, I beg to move.

**Mr Speaker:** It has been proposed that at its adjournment today, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, Parliament stands adjourn until Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2011. This is a motion brought under Standing order 9(2)(b) for a special adjournment. I will now give members the opportunity to comment on this motion.

**Mr MANASSEH SOGAVARE** (*MP East Choiseul*): I think those on the Government side are not going to talk because everyone of you agreed to this motion before coming here, and so I guess you will not have anything to say. In terms of this side of the House, there are only two of us here and so I will make a few comments on the two reasons the Prime Minister has given to adjourn Parliament until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, which is next Wednesday for the Government to organise itself. That is the second reason given by the Prime Minister and it is to allow the Government to organise itself. It is understandable that the Government needs to be given time to appoint ministers and get itself organized as to who is going to be the minister; to argue over those posts. It needs to sort itself out because that is probably what will happen because the Government really needs to get that happen and it needs time to do that.

The other reason, of course, stated by the Prime Minister is because of the situation that happened yesterday. I would like to comment like this. This is the highest executive decision making body of the land and its membership is comprised of people who are elected by people. We are not here by our own choice but we are put here by the people to represent their voice here.

The democratic process of this country - the parliamentary democracy that we adopt is such that when a vote of no confidence is taken is killing two birds with one stone. The removal of the Prime Minister is also a removal of the government,

technically. And the cries of the people, which we have heard over the media the reasons why they wanted the leadership of the government to go and also for the government to be changed too, and it is quite clear. They have stated these in petitions that were raised to the Government and also people coming out expressing their views. And they expect Parliament as their voice to do something.

The argument, of course, that probably the Prime Minister is going to make is 'oh, it is only those in Honiara'. The Prime Minister and the Government may be entitled to say that, but we need to understand as well that the history of the country speaks very clearly that it was only a very few people here in Honiara that brought down this country during the crisis. And so the people expected Parliament to do the right thing according to their thinking. The manoeuvring by members has, of course, brought back the same regime as the government.

In a case where the Governor General has no power to remove the government, the constitutional recourse that people have to do that is basically limited. There is basically nothing they can do more except to rely on their members of Parliament to make the right decisions for the security, safety and so forth of this country. When there is a situation like that, people are going to take moves they have been taking.

What else can the people do? They cannot come here and debate those issues in Parliament, but they expect their representatives to discuss those issues. For example, the marches that they wanted to do –and this goes to whoever is going to be appointed as minister of police to take it up with the police authority. When people ask for legal marches, peaceful protests, people ask 'we want to march to the Government or march to wherever to express our views' but when the government through its police force influenced the police force to say they do not want those marches. These are peaceful legal marches, and we do not allow those to happen and so what will you get, you will get illegal marches.

What was done yesterday is an expression by people that they have no other way to go. And if we are not careful, things like that will continue to happen. And, of course, fingers are pointing to some of us; every time trouble happens in this country only some of us were pointed at. This is not a new thing.

In the year 2000 when the Government was brought down with the barrel of the gun, and some of the people responsible are right in this House. And yet some of us were pointed fingers at. It was said that I led the coup, I raided the armoury. And so people will be tempted to say that about some of us. And it was already expressed in

the media that one of the candidates is very close to the civil society and is putting his agendas through there. I have nothing to do with this. You are free to move around and find out people's views.

That is one thing that out of the thought that some motions need to be moved in this House so that we discuss fully the security issues, the current security issues. Before we put off Parliament today there is something boiling up in this country that I think some serious motions needs to be moved for us to discuss fully the current security issues that we have. I believe the Government is totally incompetent to deal with it independently by itself. It needs to be dealt with by this Parliament.

This is a loner talking on this side with my member for West Kwara'ae. But it takes a man to stand up in front of all of you to talk. Even if this House boils down to only one of us, we will still stand here and express the voice of the people, Mr. Speaker, and I am not afraid to do that.

This motion, we have no problem with it. Well, the only problem is what I have been telling you, but to give time to the government to sit down so that you fight over the portfolios, and I hope you will settle this quickly according to the memorandum of understandings that you have been signing. Those of you who have been holding portfolios should remain in your portfolios. Work according to those memorandums because memorandums of understandings should guide us. Because if you do not follow those MOUs then it is your business, but probably you need one week to battle it out sort it out, quickly get ministers into their portfolios, where they are going to be, call Parliament quickly, we are still with this budget. I know the Prime Minister now is well versed with finance matters and so I think we can pass the budget in December. So you need all the time to sort yourself out, come back, bring the budget. Of course, the Public Accounts Committee will be an issue as well as it will need more time, and how much week are you going to give them. If it has to cross over to December 31<sup>st</sup>, then maybe you need a resolution to Parliament for us to discuss the budget next year.

With that comment, and we are caught unprepared so all those talks are all over the place. But those are just strategies of the current Prime Minister as he is a person who can take you by surprise on the floor of Parliament. And so I guess that is a challenge for those of us on this side to be prepared all the time so that we take you on. With those, I think we are outnumbered, there is nothing these two votes can say, no matter how much we can say 'no' and the loudest 'no' in this House, you will still beat us. I take my chair.

**Mr. DANNY PHILIP** (*MP Rendova/Tetepare*): I would also like to contribute very briefly on the spirit of the motion and the reasons given to ask for a little bit of time for the new Prime Minister to organize his government so that we start again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> which is Wednesday next week. I would also like to thank the Member for East Choiseul for his analysis on the current situation we are facing today.

I just want to say that this country has come under a certain culture of expressing its unhappiness on the legislature and the business of the legislature. I am very sad that things like that happened yesterday. And like the member for East Choiseul has mentioned we must be also conscious of the opinions of the masses.

This country is so disintegrated. As we know, we have nine provinces and all of us should be able to form the public opinion and best representation of any disenchantment of the democratic process that this country respects which is constitutional. Unfortunately, we have been encumbered by the media which is a little bit limited only to Honiara. Whether the people who marched yesterday represent the people of Temotu, Malaita, Isabel, Choiseul, the people of every province in this country? I think representation of public opinion must be formed 90 or 70 or 80 percent of this country. But for people to capitalize on the public opinion of themselves, influenced by politics very much in Honiara, very much by civil society which is limited here in Honiara; as the outgoing Prime Minister I am so sad to see these things happened. I want the country to be more stable; the people of this country to respect the rule of law and the democratic process of Parliament, the three branches of the constitution; the legislature, the judiciary and the executive.

We have a constitution that brings these institutions up, especially the legislature right down from the people in choosing their leaders. And rightly so they should be disenchanted and represent their voice not by a handful of people but throughout the country. I think in this way we can have a situation that is more representative like the Arab Spring. The people of Libya spoke and they changed the government they wanted, the people of Egypt. In Syria there is a lot of mobilization going at the moment. This is the way it represents the whole of the country to get a fair representation.

If people in Auki, Gizo, Lata and everywhere demonstrated yesterday then I will say to the Prime Minister "Sir, I think it is enough, you sit down". But I think the formation of public opinion in this country has been capitalized by people here in Honiara. They formed this public opinion by the use of media. This person who is

standing right now, last week I was summoned like I entered a big court. I just want to express my disappointments.

I was led in here to give an answer as the biggest criminal of modern Solomon Islands because of the way the media has portrayed the member for South New Georgia and Rendova/Tetepare. This is unfortunate – I totally support the independence of the media but the way the media has been going in the last five or six weeks is one sided. And the people who are responsible in forming public opinion to change the legislature and decisions made by the legislature and the executive – in Papua New Guinea the executive removed the Chief Justice. You know once we start doing these things this country is going to be in chaos.

I think we must at least draw some lines and criteria as to where the public and the media should stop and where the executive should have its limits and where the judiciary must not be encumbered. And the Police Force, we are working and fighting against many forces here in this country. And these forces once they take control of the country's people and the institutions established by the constitution they will be watered down.

My people of Rendova and South New Georgia still love me, no matter what you might be saying about their member of Parliament in the newspapers. I would like to congratulate my people for being so loyal to me in the last 14 months of representing them and also for being the Prime Minister for the last 14 months.

The motion here is simple, it is only asking the House to give the Prime Minister time necessary to establish his government properly so that work can commence, and the budget must be passed for the interest of this country. I allude also to the sentiments expressed by the member of Parliament for East Choiseul that yes as leaders we must listen to the opinion of the masses. The question is who are the masses? This is very important! Who do they represent? Because the crowd yesterday as I see it, most of them are children and so where are the adults who started the uprising? Where are they hiding?

When I was Prime Minister, a request for peaceful march to my office was made but I did not agree. Since when was there a peaceful march here in Honiara because those marches emanate from totally different motivations? And as I have mentioned in this chamber many, many times over; the biggest crime this country and leaders were to ever commit is to capitalise on the ignorance of the masses. That is the biggest crime. We who understand things lead our people to form public opinion for our own

purposes. To me that is the biggest crime, and not ROC funding, no. Those funds are paid to the people. I personally, the person standing now does not even benefit from it - not even a cent! But this is the next phase of my war. I want those people who alleged these things to prove it beyond reasonable doubt. That would be my next round of business. I will strive to clear my name from all these allegations on the basis of my prima facie evidence if they so have it, they must bring it forth and prove me wrong in the court of law or in the oversight institutions that are available in this land to prove and indict a political leader.

I just want to express those sentiments. I would like to appeal to the people of Honiara to remain calm and allow the Executive Government does its business now. There are ways of expressing yourselves not only on the streets. We have to stop this culture of getting people on the streets; we cannot find solutions on the streets, my good people of Honiara. I love you all and I want to appeal to you all, even the leaders, the perpetrators of these demonstrations to bring into the young people of Honiara some sense of leadership too.

I also appeal to the members of Parliament of the Opposition bench to demonstrate goodwill and come and occupy their seats in Parliament. I think it doesn't speak too well of them for being absent this morning. The member for East Choiseul, you still keep the record as being the best attendance member of Parliament in this generation. Thank you also, the member for West Kwara'ae, thank you for coming over to make representation of the opposition bench this morning.

Those people who were talking too much in the media, where are they this time. Is it implying that they are the ones who started the demonstrations? It must be! Why are they not here this morning? We all are human beings and we are fallible- we are prone to make mistakes, but I think to keep this country going, we all must work together as leaders of this country to make sure that we do the right thing to represent our people here so that the budget is passed, the appropriate laws and programs are passed through this floor of Parliament. I just want to express my disappointment this way to members of Parliament.

The Chairman of the PAC who is very critical about government spending is not even here. The Leader of the Opposition is not here. Where are they? There is one, just coming in now - thank you. Rather than succumbing or demonstrating to sentiments that are ongoing, we must be strong as leaders. Let us come into this chamber and represent the rest of the people of this country.

With those few remarks expressing my sentiments, I appeal to the people of Honiara to please remain quiet. Let us give a chance to the executive government today and onwards to organize our government, and this is not our own government but it is our government, it is the government of the people of Solomon Islands so that we live in a peaceful, cohesive and united country. Those are my expressions and words right from the bottom of my heart. I would like to appeal to all the young people, people of Honiara to remain quiet and listen out to the new things the new Prime Minister is going to give to this country. With those few remarks I support the motion.

**Mr Speaker:** Just for the information of honourable members that when you come into parliament, please turn off your mobile phones. It is not right for mobile phones to ring inside Parliament when Parliament is on session. That is just a gentle reminder.

Secondly, let me refer to what I have said when we adjourned parliament to elect a new Prime Minister, and I quote “ *at its adjournment today Parliament adjourns until the day after a new Prime Minister has been elected in accordance with section 34 of the constitution*”. This means the day after so I have been notified by the opposition and they say they are not aware of the meeting in parliament this morning. That is why I refer to my statement honourable members that today should be Parliament, the day after the new Prime Minister is elected just to clear off the confusion. I believe opposition has quickly referred to my statement on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Thank you very much indeed honourable members. Sorry for bringing those two things to the attention of the House.

I will now go back to the business of the House. Any speakers who would like to contribute to the motion moved by the Honourable Prime Minister can do so.

**Mr JOHN MOFFAT FUGUI (MP Central Honiara):** This is a good day because we have a new Government in place. It is still NCRA but with a new Prime minister and so it is NCRA made new and so it is very important that we appreciate what we have in place.

This is also a good day because when I came down from my house. I know that our boys have now listened and that is why no houses were burned, people are on the road, everybody is doing their normal business for today and so this is a very good day.

This is an excellent day because we have a new generation that stands, stands with the responsibility of taking leadership in our country. And this is a wonderful day because as our former Prime Minister has said, I stand for Central Honiara in that if

anything happens, and I have already reminded government members about it that I will take the heaviest cost, and so I think people of Central Honiara constituency have listened and have kept quiet.

This is a marvellous day because they will wait on us to provide Government services as we have always done. However, we have a very big and serious problem because the democratic system that we have has shortfalls, what Professor Foner called "*deficits of democracy*". The deficit of democracy hinges directly and straight on to what the constitution states in terms of the separation of power where the legislature (who we are now), the judiciary (courts) and the executive (cabinet) are talking but excludes the voice of the people, which is the most important and the most foundational thing in any democracy ever yet. I mentioned *ever yet* because we have to invent or devise a system where the voice of the people will be heard in a nice way, not on the streets, but a nice healthy way where we can fight without anyone dying. That is the essence of democracy: we fight, we talk but no one is injured and in the end according to the pattern or culture of Solomon Islands we are going to chew betel nut together. Only the SDAs do not chew betel nut but the rest of us will chew betel nut and talk. That is the challenge of Parliament; that we will find in terms of the democratic institutions in place; in terms of the doctrine of the separation of powers; in terms of the three branches of the state that we have, but we create a space where people can talk and then they will come to us. In other words, where the democratic process is short that is where our creativity demands of us or needed now so that our people can raise their voices without going to the streets. That is the challenge of members of Parliament, especially the new government now that we put in place; the NCRA made new that I have stated earlier on. With those few words, I thank you.

**Mr MATTHEW WALE** (*MP Aoke/Langalanga*): Mr Speaker, firstly since I came in late, my apologies, and I suppose also generally for my colleagues. We do note that the adjournment on Friday was for the day after election of the new Prime Minister. However, with the security situation of yesterday, there has not been much clarity as to whether the situation has abated today and therefore members of the Opposition did not come quickly in time, some even forgot because of that situation.

It is not all as was suggested by the Member for Rendova/Tetepare that they were the ones that started or planned it or part of the event that is why they do not come - there is nothing like that. This type of comment is in sighting- we are leader

together and the democratic process however faulty as was pointed out by the Member for Central Honiara. The democratic process as we have it in our current constitution is what works. And we respect that.

It is important that our people have an outflow that they are able to express themselves, especially when they feel, rightly or wrongly, but when they feel their views are not heeded. And so it is good that we allow that kind of expression to come through the constitutional leadership processes, and only here on this floor is the right place.

You know, Mr Speaker, you of all people know very well of all the events during the tension. The people of Guadalcanal feel that the democratic process, the rule of law, the constitutional processes have failed them in their bona fide demands. However many years since Mr. Alebua was Prime Minister and they tried to deal with these issues, the democratic process has never properly resolved these issues. And in the end as we know, the history is very clear, people resorted to violence. They ignored Parliament, they ignored the democratic process, it became irrelevant to them. Why? Because that process seemed to have stifled the voice of the people; has not served the voice of the people. And so we have to be careful. The Police must also be careful. One, they must not allow it to be totally free flow, but at the same time they cannot stifle it. If they do stifle it, then it will blow up into violence, and that is what all of us do not want.

Sir, let it be very clear that the Opposition is not part to anything in the organizing o violence, we do not condone violence in anyway whatsoever. We never have and we never will. We love this country too much. And as a pluralist society we must build all those voices together. So that together we come into debate; together we find the best outcomes. The views of the people are very clear. They have been making it very clear to us leaders. And so when they feel that leaders do not take on what they say then that is where they think Parliament is useless to their course so they take to the streets.

We say to them loud and clear; a united voice, the Government and us in the Opposition, 'No Violence'. We say to them peaceful protest is fine, there is constitutional provision for that as long as it is lawful. That is what we were saying to them. This inciteful sectarian view the member for Rendova is trying to propagate is not going to help any of us. This is a house together, in the face of what the people are trying to say, we accept what the people are saying, but we urge on them to do it

lawfully – we urge on them to refrain from violence. That must be the spirit and the consensus of the house this morning.

The motion itself is straightforward and I need not go too much into it. But I feel it is important this morning that we must be united together. We have a new Prime Minister, let us work together. But let us not stifle the voice of the people. Allow it into constructive, constitutional, lawful expressions so that it reflects a maturity on our part and a maturing of our society which is the basis of our constitutional processes.

With those few remarks, we on the Opposition side have absolutely no problem with this motion and want to see it go forward, so that it gives time to the Prime Minister and the Government to come up with the business of the House so that our House is orderly as we move forward.

**Mr. MANASSEH MAELANGA (MP East Malait):** I would like to thank the honourable Prime Minister for moving this motion that its adjournment on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Parliament shall stand adjourned until Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011.

It is fitting to give time like the Prime Minister has said when moving this motion for the Government to work in choosing its ministers; setting up the cabinet before we continue with the meeting next week. So I see that it is fitting.

Touching on some of the issues that have been raised, I want to say that I think it only comes back to us leaders, especially looking at what happened yesterday. You talking in terms of security. I think it also right for us leaders, that when we make comments in the media and all this. Let us frame our comments properly. Sometimes those things like that help to instigate these kinds of happenings. All of us members of parliament: leaders - even leaders in our communities, leaders in whatever groups that you are. Let's try to put proper comments in the media so that our people will understand what we are saying. Sometimes when we frame our words, which are not in line with their views, they will certainly react. So let us say what will be in line with our laws—the constitution. Sometimes what we say might stir up things people. I am not usually vocal in the media because that is not the right place for me to share my concerns. The Parliament—this is the place that I want to speak out. That is one point that I want to share with us leaders.

I also want to appeal to my good leaders of Malaita; Malaita Maasina Forum; Peoples Power; these are people I normally have conversations with—please try to give proper

advice to our people. If there is anything then there are proper ways of going about it, because some of our people are illiterate. If we explain something that they do not understand, they will turn around and do something else.

Yesterday I manage to walk right into the crowd; when they marched past and saw me—that's when I was heading home—some of them are just small boys. And sometimes we leaders, when we do these things and when these kids get into trouble we just sit back.

So sir this is a challenge for all of us leaders. I think it is time that we must try and look after our country well by properly leading our people. In what we say in the media or what we say in anywhere that we talk, and that it comes out in the public—I think we must be sensible in what we say in the media.

So that is what I see that is why I want to contribute in this motion, especially concerning the security part, where understandably things had happened.

I know that there are ways of going about things that we are unhappy about. There are places that we can take these concerns to; that is if we are not happy.

It is true sometimes we have to listen to our people; their voices. And we are the ones that are here, they mandate us. They are the ones who put us in this house to be their voices.

And one thing is that we are here to make decisions; we are here to make decisions as leaders. And I would like to say here to my people of East Malaita who are living in town to 'please stay away from whatever is happening here in Honiara city'. Yesterday I think I was talking to some of my leaders-elder chiefs. And they talked to the people around in the areas that my people are residing; in Kobito, in Gilbert Camp. You must stay away because you have elected me and so I will represent your voice. There are areas that if you are not happy, you are most welcome to come and see where we can go about things. I mean those are things that we as leaders should be doing. That is what I know, but I do not know maybe others have different views but that is what I know. I have to deal with my people because they put me here and so I have to care for them. We should not neglect them there. Those are my some of my concerns about what happened yesterday. I do not want us to go down that path again. I think we as leaders have to come out clearly and talk to our people.

We have democratic ways of enabling our people to come out; maybe through marches - proper legal marches. Our leaders should know. I know the Prime Minister now should know and assess those marches by getting information from the Police.

The Police are the ones who will brief him. Yes, our intelligence, gathering of information is like this 'the march will be a peaceful one, nothing will happen'. I cannot just stand and approve the march without gathering information. There are ways of going about those things.

I can allow it or the Prime Minister can allow it if he has information that the protest march is going to be peaceful. But if he has information that there is something behind the march, that if the protest goes ahead something will happen then he will certainly disallow it. Everything is alright, there are democratic ways of doing it, I mean all of us know ways of doing things.

I am not going to take up much time because the motion is very clear that it is for us to adjourn to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to allow the government set up its Cabinet, appoint its Ministers before we continue with our meeting next week. With that I take my seat.

**Mr DICK HA'AMORI** (*MP West Makira*): I am standing here to recognize the fact that leadership has two or three facets to it - its different characteristics and attributes. So many times we come inside and perhaps because we start off during the General Elections we promised a lot of development to the extent that our minds are filled up with developments. And every time when we get back to our people, perhaps we only talk about development, development and development. I think it's about time that we engage a little bit also in general political educating in our communities so that our people understand and appreciate the processes that have already been constitutionally setup.

I believe that a lot of the things that we are seeing its manifestation around these days are a result of people that are still ignorant about the processes that are already in place, and they are good processes. I begin to be worried about the question on democracy. We say our democracy or using a word by my colleague, the member for Central Honiara '*the democratic deficits*'. There may be democratic deficits, but we must also recognise considering that we are still on this side of the universe, I think the democratic processes we adopt in this country is just sufficient. What makes it to look as if it is not sufficient is just because of this thing called 'ignorance'.

We talked too much about planting cocoa and coconut and distribution of solar and building of roads and all these things, so much so that everyone thinks that is politics and nobody knows that there is a thing called a court of law. And the issues we are talking about that are causing disharmony at this time, people should know that if

they think otherwise then open a case against it. Just because we are members of Parliament we are not immune to the court system. Therefore, leaders, instead of going down to the streets, go to the court. That is the place where our democratic processes and our democratic systems have already made rooms for. We do not seem to be making use of these facilities; instead we opt to use another one, one that perhaps should be used with responsibility.

Demonstration to express our disagreements and all that is good, but it must be done with responsibility. And those who are vested with the power to say yes and no, whether such a thing is carried out or not, I am sure must also exercise responsibility that if they judge there is no great issue surrounding that would be inflammatory then we can allow it, but if it looks like it is in the judgment of those who gather information say 'no, it is not safe for us to say yes' then advice should be given can you try the other venue; the other one that is also available. That is what I think should happen.

For us to start questioning democracy is a bit like going out into the ocean in a canoe and then starting to dig a hole in the canoe by the questions we form about the democratic system that we have in this country. We make it sound as if we have exhausted everything allowed for by our democratic system and that is why we engaged in those things. I do not think we have exhausted everything; we are yet to exhaust it. Only because, perhaps we are not fully aware or people just deliberately do not want us to see those other avenues through which we can express our disappointments and disagreements then that is why we end up like this.

So I appeal to all of us, just like I appealed directly to some of my people yesterday that please stay away from such a thing. I know that some of the people who joined the march, I do not know may be 60 percent if not 80 percent do not have a political agenda. It is just curiosity that brings them on. Just imagine you go shopping and you see a big group passing by shouting, without thinking you join the group and go. If we take those people aside and interview them, most them will just laugh because they really do not understand why they joined the group. One or two people may be. And if he says 'this person is corrupt' but if you further question him he will just laugh and look stupid because may be he does not even understand the word corruption too. Our leaders should think about all these things.

There are venues a civilized society should be engaged in. There are civilized ways to do it. And I am very glad we are living in a very civilised society. It is just a different way of living that we have, but that does not mean we are not civilized - we

are civilized. And the democratic that we have now, yes, I am not saying that it is perfect, but I can assure this nation that we have not exhausted all the provisions available. The manifestations we are seeing just show that we do not quite fully understand what is available for us to use. We think there is only one way available and so we say this one has shut, there is no other way of doing things. No, there are other roads. If you think I am corrupt, take me to court so that I am answerable to the court myself. If it is fitting for me to go into custody or be imprisoned for it then so be it, I will go inside because I deserve to go in there. But when we still do not do this and we want to do other expressions that we want to do then it is not very good and does not reflect very well on us.

Before I sit down, it is true that many times we take about 80percent of the population of this country for a ride. I think this is not very good. I upgrade this statement that 'it is not good' for the 80percent to be confused as to what is again happening in Honiara. This is not good and should be rethought again. Please exhaust the legal and available avenues that are there.

My final comment is, I believe the Prime Minister moved this necessary motion this morning not so much because of yesterday because that would be denying the ability of the instruments in place in maintaining law and order, and also the goodwill of people, not to forget that. People today might be thinking "what I did yesterday was not good", and so they decided that they will respect the good harmony and peace that we are happy about all these times and they stay put. Maybe some will realize that they have been led astray by some people that if they back up this person and he goes and sits there, he will be the only one drinking tea but I will still loiter in the dust and hot sun on the streets in Honiara". Maybe some are thinking that way. Therefore, I want to make those few comments and with that I agree with the motion this morning that we should adjourn. Thank you.

**Mr CLAY SOALAOI** (*MP Temotu Vattu*): I also support the motion moved by the Prime Minister. At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Prime Minister on behalf of my people, you have my support and also my people's support.

The motion is very simple and I also want to thank other colleagues who have contributed by raising very important issues that we leaders need to take into consideration.

In regards to what happened yesterday, let me take this opportunity to congratulate our Police Force and also the PPF and CTF for the job well done. I think without proactive approaches taken by the Police yesterday, the situation could have gone out of control. I feel that I should congratulate our police force and also RAMSI for being very proactive in their planning yesterday by putting the situation under control.

Like other colleagues yesterday, I also squeezed through some people in a vehicle and I ran away when a stone almost hit my vehicle. But you know our people have the right to express themselves. I do not blame them for what happened yesterday because they have to find ways to express themselves. I think as citizens of this country we all have right under our constitution to be able to express ourselves. I believe this Government is a responsible government and I am quite hopeful that with the new Prime Minister it should be a flexible government that allows people to express their freedom under the constitution.

But let me also caution our people that even the freedom we have also has boundaries. You do not have a freedom under the constitution to cause any discomfort to other people. I believe that all of us citizens of this country want to enjoy life on this land. We have only but a short time. Some might go beyond 70 years of age and some of us will go over 100 years. But at least with the limited time we have to live on this land, our constitution does allow us to enjoy this life freely. Whilst the government needs to take heed to the call to allow people to express themselves, our people must also know that our freedom under our constitution also has boundaries that you do not have any right to cause discomfort to another citizen of this country.

I think we have business to do so let us give the new Government time to come up with a new cabinet. I hope and trust that the Prime Minister will be able to do it with the help of other members in the Government to sort things out before Wednesday next week. Having said that, we owe a lot to the Police Force and RAMSI for calming the situation yesterday. Let me finish by congratulating them for the job well done. I support the motion.

**Hon DEREK SIKUA** (*Leader of Opposition*): First of all I would like to sincerely apologize for coming late this morning. But on the way up I heard what the member for South New Georgia/Rendova/Tetepare has stated, but I will touch on that much later on. But first of all, I would like to thank very much the Prime Minister for moving this

motion, and also to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate my dear colleague and friend, the member for Gizo/Kolombangara for successfully winning the election of Prime Minister yesterday. I convey my sincere congratulations to him on behalf of my people of North East Guadalcanal.

Yes, I also heard the speech given by our new Prime Minister yesterday when he called on the Opposition to work together with him. And I on behalf of the Opposition group pledge our support to the new Prime Minister and his government. I also would like to answer the call by the new Prime Minister that we will work together with his government.

Going back to what I have mentioned earlier on to what the member for South New Georgia and Rendova/Tetepare has mentioned, which is very unbecoming of a leader, as my deputy leader has mentioned that kind of comment is inciting. Yesterday I prepared a press release to call on our people to put a stop to what they were doing and to ask them to keep calm. For some reasons, the press release was not released. But I am determined to find the press release and I will release it today – calling on our people to allow us to sort out this problem, and especially their elected representatives.

Certainly, from what my Deputy Leader has mentioned, the Opposition group is never a party to whatever has happened yesterday or any event that might have happened since the motion of no confidence was noticed in Parliament. People have been coming to me, both in my office and my house, asking me as the Leader of Opposition to support the march or any other moves that they are making, and I have always been very consistent in my advice to these people whether it is the People's Power or any other civil society groups that because the Police did not allow them to march, and that is the law we follow, their only other avenue is to go and talk to their members of parliament so that their members of parliament express what their people are not happy about on the floor of Parliament. That has always been my advice to these people when they come to my house or to my office. I want to let Parliament know that we were never a party to what has happened yesterday or any other time as an opposition group. I just want to make it very clear that we never supported this kind of behaviour or actions and we will never will.

As mentioned by my deputy leader, we love this country so much. We are leaders just as much as you people on the government side are leaders, and we are determined in doing the right thing for our people and make sure that our country moves forward.

What has happened shows that our people are concerned about certain things, especially about our leadership in this country. And so I want to offer a word of advice to our new Prime Minister and members of his cabinet and government that we must listen to our people. We must not underestimate the kind of feelings coming from our people. I advise the Prime Minister to listen, and not only to listen but as much as possible try to take actions so that what our people want does happen.

The feelings expressed by our people in Honiara might be also the feelings of our people that are not in Honiara as well, especially out in the provinces, and also the feelings of our young people who are studying overseas in various tertiary institutions. So I advise you to look at what people are saying in the face book, what our people are saying in twitter. They are making very important comments because these are the future elites of our country so that you get to read the views and know what our young people studying outside are thinking in terms of what our people in Honiara are expressing on the streets. That is very important and I want the Prime Minister to direct his people to look at what people are saying in the various forms of modern technology like face book and twitter.

I want to say to the new Prime Minister and our new Government that they must listen. And it is their responsibility to make sure that what our people are saying and are expressing must be responded to in a positive manner so that we lessen and prove them wrong that we are not that kind of people or we are not that kind of government that they see us to be. That is very important. That is my advice to the Government.

Going back to what has happened yesterday, joining the member for Temotu Vattu, I would like at this point congratulate the Royal Solomon Islands Police, the PPF and RAMSI overall, for handling the situation in a manner that is brought under control. I ask the Police to be on the alert because anything can happen. So that once anything comes up they are on top of it and not allow anything to happen that will spoil our town, and especially my people of North East Guadalcanal because my people get their money from the market, and so when the market is closed we are not happy. We want the market to open quickly because that is how we earn our money because we are the ones feeding Honiara. Not those from Central Guadalcanal, but those from North West and North East Guadalcanal are the ones bringing in a lot of potatoes to the city. And so on behalf of my people we would like the Central Market to be opened quickly so that my people can bring in potatoes for those of us in Honiara.

I do not have any problems with the motion and I am sure on behalf of the Opposition Group because I can understand what the Prime Minister needs to do. He will need to form his cabinet; he will need to prepare a few good speeches and we are looking forward to those good speeches. I want his maiden speech to sound a little bit different. I know it is still NCRA but there are some things I want to hear and I want to give him time. Because I almost disagree that why do you not just come back on Monday? But I want him to nicely write that speech because I want to hear some very sweet things inside, something good for our people, and not this way of just saying things but one year later, next August before work starts. I want to see some timelines given to what you are going to say to us.

Therefore I can understand what the new Prime Minister is trying to do. And my advice is as you form your cabinet, try and put in people that can work in the Ministries. The last year or so, the new people that you have put in those Ministries are not working at all. I hear that only the Minister for Tourism is working very hard but you must give him money because we are going to be embarrassed with the Arts Festival. That is the priority, money for the Arts Festival so that we prepare for it otherwise we are going to be embarrassed about it.

I do not know what the Minister for Education has been doing for the past one and half year. I think you better think twice before appointing him again to that ministry. I also do not know what the Foreign Affairs Minister has been doing because he goes overseas all the time. Do not appoint the MP for Temotu Vattu to be a minister but leave him to be a backbencher. If you need my help to choose your ministers, I am very happy to work with you. But with those comments I support the motion.

**Mr SAMUEL MANETOALI** (*MP Gao/Bugotu*): First of all, thank you for allowing me the floor to contribute to this motion. Secondly, I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for this motion and also congratulations to the Prime Minister for his successful election yesterday, even though myself was a candidate as well.

Yesterday was a great moment for this honourable House and the good people of Solomon Islands. It was a great moment because the people of my constituency of Gao/Bugotu and the people of Isabel as a whole through their elected member of Parliament has exercised their democratic rights to courageously stand for the post of prime minister despite the outcome.

Before proceeding further, I would like to acknowledge and thank the four members of Parliament who completed the race; who boldly putting themselves forward for public scrutiny. In doing so, enabled the process of electing a prime minister under the constitution to be fully activated and applied democratically.

Solomon Islands derive its name from the biblical king of Israel named King Solomon. The name not only denotes the riches of King Solomon but it also connotes the virtues of wisdom, fairness and justice. In the usual drama of no confidence motions that we have witnessed over the years in our political landscape, I consider these virtues and other issues of political integrity, missing and absent, and so I afford my services humbly and democratically to contest the post of Prime Minister.

The post of prime minister has over the years attracted a lot of controversy in the course of choosing the right candidate. Many a time the post is left to the bigger provinces to decide amongst themselves as to who should take the post, as if they have the inherent claim to that post. When such undemocratic process occurs, the smaller provinces are left to tow the line as if their election to Parliament is less democratic than others.

I stood among others to contest the post to send the message to my fellow colleagues in this honourable House that under the constitution, the process of electing members of Parliament is the same and equal. Therefore, we are all mandated to govern Solomon Islands and to protect the interest of all Solomon Islanders. The controversy of the process of electing the Prime Minister in our country calls for an overhaul of related constitutional laws to establish an equivocal or mode of electing Prime Minister. This process will eliminate the alleged corrupted act that is always associated with the election of the Prime Minister. My candidacy is not by mistake but rather was intentionally perpetrated to overcome the notion that only elected members from the bigger provinces are eligible or enable or entitled to contest for the post of Prime Minister.

Yesterday was a historical moment for my people and Isabel Province. We will not be content as ministers of the crown but we will always aspire for the post of Prime Minister from yesterday and onwards. Personally, I contested because I am qualified to do so. I was mandated to be a leader not only for my people and the nation as a whole. My profession as a lawyer being a leader of the Rural Urban political party gives me an extra urge to lead this beautiful country.

I wish in passing to advice the incumbent of the following thoughts.

First you will fear God and uphold what is godly, and not fear any other less than God and reject that which is ungodly. You will stand for that which is right and not what you are not sure whether it is right or wrong. You will stand for that which is noble and not what you are not sure whether it is noble or not. You will stand firm to that is honourable and not what is less than that. You will uphold that which is legal and not what you are not sure whether it is legal or not. You will sacrifice a few for the benefit of many. You will stand to justice and be firm that which is reasonable and not to injustice and that which cannot be defensible. You will exhaust all possible source of advice before a decision is made. You will govern the Solomon Islands in its entirety and not regionally. Most important and finally, just be a dad and not a father.

With the above contribution I support the motion and once again congratulate the honourable Prime Minister for his successful election and I beg to take my seat.

**Hon. Lilo** (*Prime Minister*): I would like to thank colleague members who have contributed to this very simple motion. The reason I am sure is well understood. But as you will note, it has been used now as prelude to a motion of sine die. I think it is good that we have been able to hear assessments and analysis of what has transpired yesterday. And I am so grateful that our colleague members have been able to cover a broad range of issues and challenges that we will continue to work on to strengthen our young democracy.

My apology also that when I referred to the situation yesterday, I wasn't absolutely clear on the subject that I have referred to, but what I was referring to yesterday was the election process that has taken place in this chamber. I was not referring to the issue that happened outside. That was really the situation I was referring to when I made reference to the situation that happened yesterday, which is the election of the Prime Minister which is one of the reasons why this motion is necessary in order to allow the government time to constitute the cabinet to govern the affairs of our country.

But, Mr Speaker, you have made the right decision this morning, to come into the chamber and ask us to say the Lord's Prayer because the fourth paragraph in the Lord's Prayer says it all for all of us. I hope you get a copy of the Lord's Prayer and refer to it; that we must forgive our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.

You know, you cannot exhaust democracy. There is no boundary in democracy. When people talk about the so many dimensions of democracy, to the deficit of

democracy—there are also applicable issues in democracy, like manipulation of democracy, suffocation of democracy and so forth.

I am not saying that the situation that has happened outside of this Parliament yesterday was a manipulation of democracy or a suffocation of democracy. But link it to any evidences that will lead to that. For instance, yesterday was the first time in the history of this country that we have this Parliament electing a prime minister on the first casting or on the first ballot with more than two candidates. It shows that 29 elected representatives of this country have cast their votes on their particular choice made yesterday—29 constituencies. If you put that together, I think that is a strong sign of democracy - an expression of the views of the people. Of course, the member for South New Georgia Rendova/Tetepare was referring to the occurrence of any objections to that choice yesterday. Whether it had happened in Gizo or Taro or Tulagi or somewhere for us to show a sample of that expression of opinion from the people has shown a strong objection to the election outcome that came out yesterday. I do not think so. Because the choice that was made yesterday is quite resounding, resounding to the extent that it is the 29 constituencies of Solomon Islands that made the choice, and they have made it very well on just the first casting of votes.

With that I would like to thank this House for that vote of confidence in electing me as Prime Minister of this country. Now I ask this House to give us time so that we can fully constitute the government that is required to be established as required under the constitution so that we can continue to govern the affairs of our country.

I do not want to go through all the issues that have been reflected in other colleagues contribution, but I think it would be suffice to say that the event yesterday has been well handled, in that we have been able to have all other relevant law enforcement institutions of the country to be able to put in place the appropriate strategy to contain that situation. They are entitled to voice their concern and I think their concern is well taken by the government and that we are working on arrangements to talk to representatives or leaders of those groups so that we can come to a common understanding in moving the path forward in addressing the issues they have raised.

I think the other colleagues have reflected very well what we should be saying, but for now I would like to come back to the motion that at its adjournment on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, Parliament shall stand adjourned until Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. With those remarks, I beg to move.

*The House adjourned at 11.01 am.*