



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

**ADDRESS BY HON. DR. PUKA I TEMU, CMG, MP
ACTING PRIME MINISTER**

**ON THE LAUNCHING OF “COALITION FOR CHANGE PAPUA
NEW GUINEA INC.**

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2008

SALLUTATION:

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is an honor to be invited to the launching of this new organization and I thank the organizers and the organizing committees for giving me the opportunity to be part of this important occasion which is indeed important to me not only as a leader but a family man and member of our society.

Before I proceed, may I take this opportunity to first of all, acknowledge the unselfish efforts of the group of all the concerned women who fought tirelessly to finally achieve what they desired for and that is to set up an alliance to take on board all the issues concerning violence against women and children.

I would also like to congratulate those agencies who have supported this new organization particularly the Founding Chairperson Mrs. Winifred Kamit for her tremendous effort in leading a successful petition last year which was tabled on the floor of Parliament by Minister for Community Development, Dame Carol Kidu on the 16th of November 2007.

It saddens me that the petition and subsequent affirmative action by Parliament happened only after the very sad and horrific act of violence against a pregnant wife by her husband resulting in the death of their unborn child. Like many peace-loving citizens of Papua New Guinea, we share your new organizations concerns on violence against women and children in many of our communities today. Equally disturbing is the trend that violence against women and children is not only confined to the urban centres but is also now an issue in many of our rural communities.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to learn that the Coalition For Change Inc. has decided to network with strategic partners to inspire and empower our people and particularly women and children to free themselves from domination and oppression as stipulated in your vision statement. Your strategic directions and your values also set a very high benchmark for Government and our people. For these efforts I commend you very highly and congratulate the executives, members and your partners on a job well done.

I am also happy to learn that the Coalition For Change Inc. is not re-inventing the wheel but is picking up on work done by the Law Reform Commission in 2002 to action outstanding legal matters on the issue of violence against women and children. You can take it from me today that I will support the three Bills you want legislated when it comes to Parliament.

I also support your plans to back up the legal aspects with education, media, rehabilitation and counseling services for victims of this horrible crime.

The Somare-Temu Government is committed in fighting crime at all levels and violence against women, children and disadvantaged citizens of our beautiful country must not be allowed to go unpunished. Over the last 3 years, our Government has focused on the primary and preventative health, HIV/AIDS prevention, Development oriented adult education, transport rehab and maintenance, income earning opportunities plus law and justice as the seven key priority expenditure areas in our development budgets. I note that these areas provide opportunities to assist the Coalition For Change Inc. with your plans and programs regarding violence against women and children. In 2009, we have K1.6209 billion for these seven key areas. In addition, the Somare-Temu Government has allocated more funds for the districts under a broad range of social and economic programs.

The Government acknowledges that many of the social issues we face are symptoms of nation building and result largely from our policies, development programs and the manner in which we have implemented these policies and programs since Independence. It is now very obvious that our people now not only expect but are demanding a very different result from Government over the next 30 to 50 years and beyond.

One of our key responses to this challenge is developing a framework for the first ever long term National Strategic Plan targeting the period 2010 to 2050. In this framework, we acknowledge that our policies, programs, intuitions and systems between 1975 and 2008 were based on a scarcity mentality underpinned by our

poverty reduction mindset. We are therefore strongly recommend that future Government policies, programs, institutions and systems be launched from an abundance mentality encouraging a more positive and desirable wealth creation mindset.

I acknowledge that the challenge that you have set yourself is indeed a very big one especially when one considers the role of man and woman in our traditional Papua New Guinea cultures. However, let me remind you that the challenge is not impossible and it can definitely be done.

Demanding change is motivated by the knowledge that there is a better way. My challenge for the executives, members and friends of the Coalition For Change Inc. therefore is not to be satisfied with the strategies that you have started with but but keep looking for that better way. I am told that in Rawanda, about 57% of the politicians are women. In a country ravaged by years of civil war and worse atrocities to humans than we in Papua New Guinea have experienced this is indeed a remarkable if not a miraculous achievement.

In closing I again commend the Coalition For Change Inc. in taking this very first bold step. Yes, it may seem daunting but I thank God that many of you women, Papua New Guinea's own daughters, have muscled up the courage and believed in yourself to make a positive difference in the lives of many of us who are living and countless numbers still unborn.

I now have much pleasure in officially launching the "Coalition for Change Papua New Guinea Inc. and the CFC Website.

Thank you and God bless you all!

HON. DR PUKA I TEMU,CMG,MP
Acting Prime Minister