



**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA INTO OBTAINING THE OFF-SHORE LOAN
FROM THE UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, 30th April 2021

Venue: Abac Room, Apec Haus, Port Moresby, PNG

Opening session for Public Hearing Phase of the Inquiry, 10:00am

The sitting commenced at 10:00am. The public hearing phase of the inquiry was opened with the compliment of the full Col team consisting of the following:

1. Chief Commissioner Sir Salamo Injia (Port Moresby)
2. Commissioner Hon Margaret White AO (Brisbane)
3. Dr James Renwick CSC SC (Senior Counsel/Sydney)
4. Dr Dominic Katter (Counsel / Sydney)
5. Mr Levente Jurth (Counsel / Brisbane)
6. Kathryn Finlayson (MinterEllison, /Brisbane)
7. Mike Hales (MinterEllison, /Brisbane)
8. Mihali Palassis (MinterEllison/ Perth)
9. Nicholas Thomas (MinterEllison /Brisbane)
10. James Barrett (MinterEllison /Perth)
11. Sam Taylor (MinterEllison/Brisbane)
12. Roshan Kumara Gamage (MinterEllison /Brisbane)
13. Mathew Yuangu (Secretary, Col /Port Moresby)
14. Tyson Yapao (Lawyer assisting Mr Yuangu / Port Moresby)

Opening addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Commissioner Hon Margaret White AO and senior counsel Dr James Renwick CCS SC. Speeches from the bar table were made by Mr Greg Shepherd representing former Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Sir Arnold Amet Representing the late Sir Michael Somare. The proceedings were livestreamed. Copies of the speeches were uploaded on the Col website.

1. Witness No. 1 - Sir Michael Somare (Deceased, 26th February, 2021), first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 1:30pm

Mr John Kumura representing the late Sir Michael Somare gave sworn oral and affidavit evidence, in which he tendered Sir Michael's signed statement dated 15th February 2021, which among other things, set out matters pertaining to Part 1- Government policy and implementation on economic development and government investment in private enterprise since Independence.

2. Witness No 2 – Sir Julius Chan, former Prime Minister and first Finance Minister, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Thursday 29th April 2021 at 9:30am to give evidence.

3. Witness No 3 – Sir Rabbie Namaliu, former Prime Minister, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Monday 12th April 2021 at 11:00 am to give evidence.

4. Witness No 8 – Sir Charles Lepani, former Director of National Planning Office, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Thursday Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 1:30pm to give evidence.

5. Witness No 88 – Chief Dr John Momis, Deputy Chairman of Constitutional Planning Committee, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Thursday 29th April 2021 at 9:30am to give evidence.

6. Witness No 12 – Dr Lawrence Sause, Head of Political Science Department, UPNG, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 11:30am to give evidence.

7. Witness No 39 – Dr Clement Waine, Secretary for Public Investment & State Enterprises, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Thursday 29th April 2021 at 9:30am to give evidence.

8. Witness No 47 – Solomon Awili, Senior Lecturer, Banking and Finance, School of Business & Public Policy, UPNG, 1.30pm.

No appearance. Adjourned to Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 11:30am to give evidence.

9. Witness No 89 – Sir John Kaputin, Member, Constitutional Planning Committee, 2:00pm

No appearance. Adjourned to 12th April 2021 at 2:00pm to give evidence.

10. Witness No. 14 & 87 Dairi Vele, Secretary for Treasury, Director of Gas Project Office & Chairman of IPIC Loan Refinancing Committee, 10:00am

Summons be issued to appear on 12th April 2021 at 10:00am to explain steps taken to furnish further information to the Commission.

11. Witness No. 90- Professor David Kavanamur, Chairman, Kumul Consolidated Holdings (formerly IPBC), 10:00am

Counsel reported lack of response to Commission's letter dated 17 March 2021. Summons be issued returnable on 12th April 2021 at 10:00 am for Professor Kavanamur to explain.