

women today

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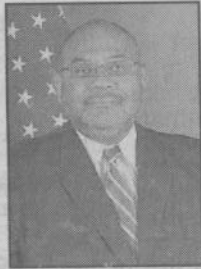
Women's Bill applauded: Taylor

ADVOCACY for women's empowerment is among the global priorities of the United States.

"For this reason, I have applauded the pending bill to create reserve seats for women in parliament and have followed the debate with great interest and, I confess, a degree of dismay," US ambassador to PNG Teddy Taylor said.

"Mature debate about the methods used to promote women's empowerment and the comparative merits of reserved seats is to be encouraged. Indeed, I applaud those members of parliament, who crossed party lines to vote their conscience.

I witnessed first-hand, however, the prejudiced based arguments that were used to stall the progress of civil rights in the United States. Therefore, I cannot remain silent when similar prejudices are being championed by those determined to prevent the full equality of women in Papua New Guinea."



TEDDY TAYLOR professional activities would increase sexual promiscuity and or domestic violence rates is offensive. This is the sort of blame-the-victim mentality that has been discredited by all reputable experts and which has no place in enlightened societies.

Further, I find it incredible that some selectively cite the Bible to justify gender-based discrimination. While opponents of equality seem keen to quote Ephesians "Wives submit to your husbands," they conveniently ignore Paul's clear admonition

Mr Taylor said the suggestion that male and female members of Parliament traveling together or women's engagement i

against gender hierarchy in society in Galatians where he writes "There is neither...male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

They equally ignore the critical leadership roles played by the four matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel and important leadership roles played in Christ's ministry by Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Mary and Martha.

"It is my hope that Papua New Guinea's elected representatives will ignore such prejudice and recognize the aspirations of women for full participation in all aspects of national life.

A society can only develop when it takes advantage of the talents of all of its citizens, regardless of gender. Papua New Guinea's parliament should recognize the wisdom of women's participation in public life and back the government's proposal for the creation of reserved parliamentary seats."

Benchmark



MILEONA Saroa does not only have a pretty face.

She is setting a new benchmark for women in PNGDF. She is the first PNGDF female officer cadet to undertake training in New Zealand. In the past first female enlistees were direct intakes meaning they had other qualifications before becoming officers in the military.

Millie, as she is affectionately

Erima mothers launch association

