



DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RELIGION

SAMBRA HAUS, Kumul Avenue, Waigani, P.O. Box 7354, BOROKO, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone: (675) 301 0252, (675) 301 0247 or (675) 325 5199, Facsimile: (675) 325 4270

Office of the Secretary

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PRESS RELEASE

SECRETARY SOLOMON ENCOURAGES ASPIRING WOMEN POLITICIANS TO UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

"I encourage you all to do not stop what you are doing after the five days training. Make it your business to learn more about how the whole government agencies operate and how the electorate and districts in each province operates."

These were the words of encouragement from the Secretary of the Department for Community Development and Religion, Ms Anna Solomon to the participants of the Papua New Guinea Practice Parliament for Women.

The practice parliament started today at Gateway Hotel with training for the women participants focused on various agendas, which will end on Saturday 11th March. The actual practice parliament sessions will be conducted on Monday 13th March at the State Function Room.

"Many of you have contributed so much to the development of this nation and now you want to put your hands up to speak on our behalf in parliament and that is so encouraging. And I would like to congratulate all of you who are here.

"You have to feel very privileged to be here, because it was a tough selection. Out of 200 applicants only 50 were selected," said Secretary Solomon as she acknowledged and welcomed the participants.

The Secretary also commended the organisers, particularly UNDP and other partners for the development of the program, and said it was very fitting for this training because these are areas were not only women but male politicians are still unaware of.

"So if you want to get into parliament, I suggest you start learning now. Don't leave it till it's too late. Don't wait till you get into parliament. And this is a very fitting time with the program excellently shape in a way that will help build your capacity," said Ms Solomon.

Secretary Solomon went on to share with participants the journey of Hon. Delilah Gore, Minister for Youth, Religion and Community Development and how she stood firm in what she believed in, to deliver to the people and contribute to the development of the Nation.

"You might think it is unfair for me to share mostly on one female politician, but she is the only woman Minister at present and a Member of Parliament. But her journey to me has a lot to learn from," said Ms Solomon.

In her concluding remarks, Ms Solomon said she will be looking forward to see the results and the outcomes highlighted in this meeting.

Meanwhile, the weeklong training will be focused on key objectives such as; Participants to understand key parliamentary procedures; Building Understanding of key parliamentary procedures; Develop Policy/analytic skills; Develop Participants understanding of running in elections and Participants understanding of working with the media during elections;

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY

Ms Anna Solomon

SECRETARY

Department for Community Development & Religion

