



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday, 26 September 2013

NEW ERA OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT AND PARLIAMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Speaker of Queensland Parliament, Hon Fiona Simpson MP, and the Speaker of the Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Hon Theo Zurenuoc MP, formally entered into a Parliamentary Partnership Agreement to promote shared understanding and stronger Parliaments yesterday.

“This agreement will help with professional development and training which are important to build capacity. The Parliaments of Queensland and Papua New Guinea are both unicameral assemblies and will only benefit from this work, based on shared understanding – between Members of Parliament in both legislatures, between our state and nation, and also amongst our respective communities,” said Speaker Simpson.

Queensland is the nearest Australian State to Papua New Guinea and this gives rise to a special relationship of closeness and cooperation.

Speaker Simpson said that she looks forward to building a closer working relationship between the two parliaments as a greater understanding of the role played by Parliament is intrinsic to the freedom which underpins democracy.

Speaker Simpson said, “It can be easy to take our parliamentary democracy for granted, with Queensland having enjoyed over 150 years of relatively stable democratic government. As we seek to strengthen and equip our neighbours by sharing these important ideals, we will also learn from them. By promoting an understanding of the practices and concepts underpinning our democratic institutions, we are also reminded of the value of what we have. After all, what we do not understand we do not value. What we do not value, we do not protect or defend.”

“The signing of this memorandum of understanding is a statement of an existing relationship and how it will be strengthened. Already this partnership has seen practical outcomes, including training opportunities and professional development for Members of Parliament and senior parliamentary staff,” said Speaker Simpson.

Representing the Parliament of Queensland were Speaker Hon Fiona Simpson MP, Mr Michael Crandon MP, Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP and Mr Dale Shuttleworth MP, along with senior staff of the Queensland Parliament.

The Queensland Parliament acknowledges the assistance of the Centre for Democratic Institutions and AusAID through the Government Partnerships for Development (GPDFD) Program to complement and enhance the existing Commonwealth Parliamentary Association twinning arrangement.

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