

Women's political participation and temporary special measures - a brief update post 2022

A presentation by:
Ms. Geejay Milli - Phd Candidate | Department of Pacific Affairs
Australian National University



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Overview

1. Introduction

- An update - state of women's political representation in PNG
- What are Temporary Special Measures? Why are TSM's important?

2. Discussion

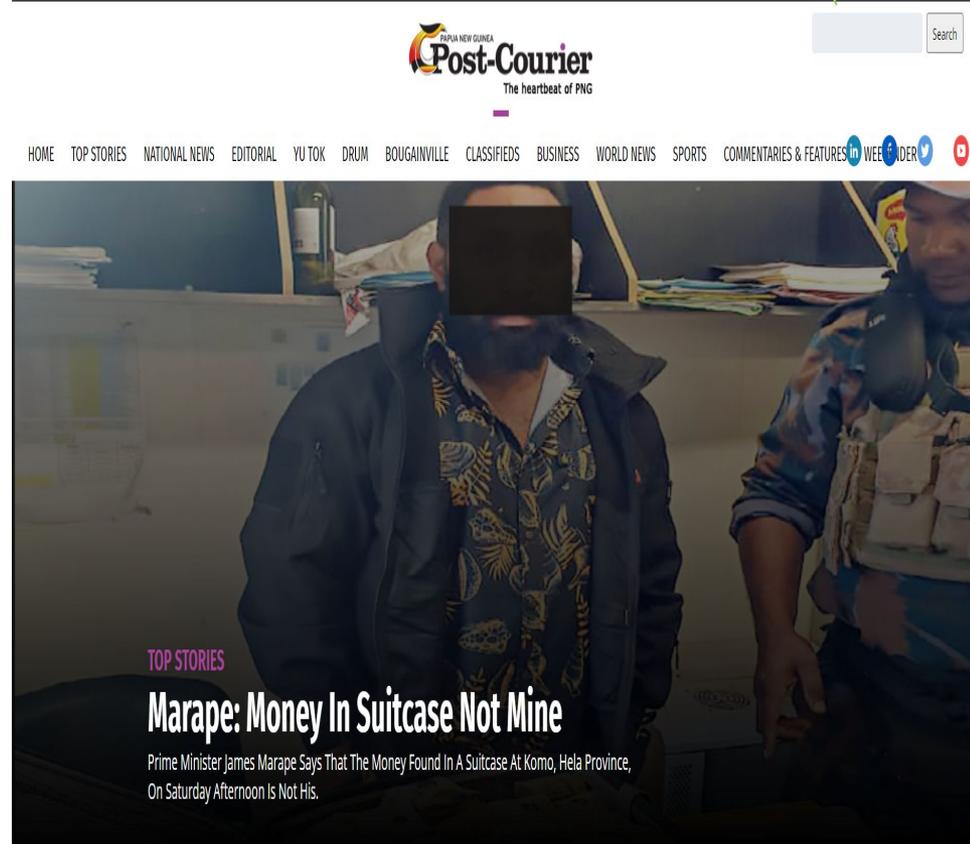
- The 'Merit argument'
- Taking a leaf out of the Bougainville and Motu Koita example.

3. Conclusion

- What now from here?

Introduction

1. An update - the state of women's political representation in PNG;
 - With the conclusion of 2022 elections, the election of two women brings total of nine female parliamentarians since 1975.
 - Many recurring issues in elections. Such as electoral corruption, electoral roll discrepancies, money politics, election related violence and security issues.



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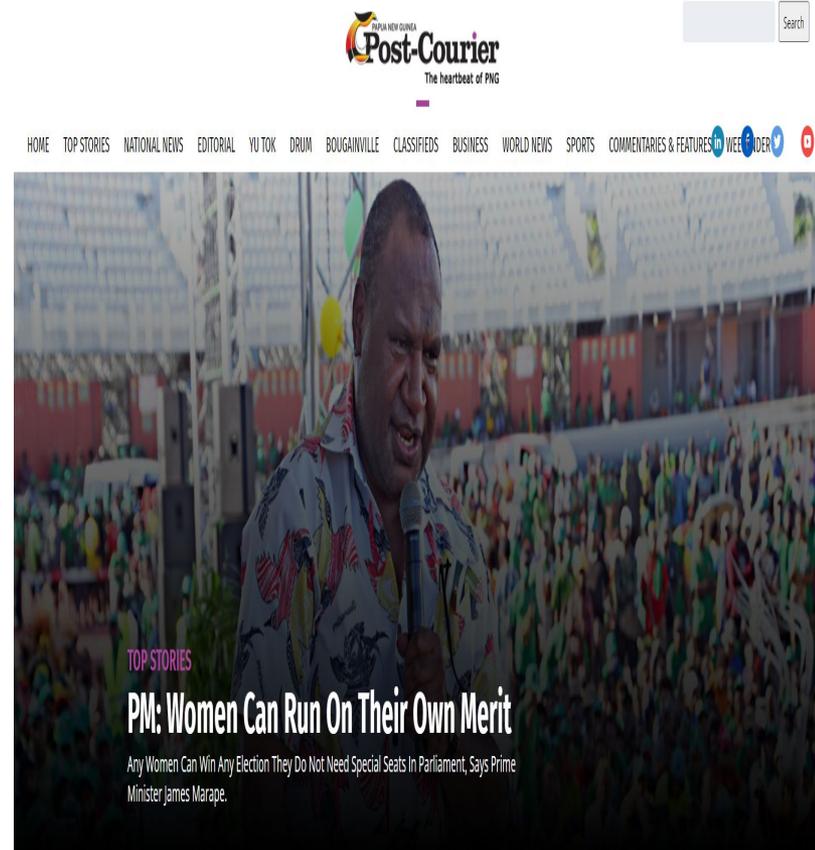
2. What are TSM's? Why are TSM's important?

- TSM's are a set of positive or proactive affirmative action measures to narrow gender disparities, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. (ADB 2012)
- TSM's/gender quotas are a simple answer to a very complex problem, namely that of women's historical exclusion from political life. (Franceschet 2012)
- PNG's TSM story.
- TSM's are not intended to be permanent. Until the objective of gender equality has been attained and sustained. (ADB 2012)



Discussion

1. The 'merit argument'
 - 'The elected Central Governor Rufina Peter stood on her own merits and was voted in by the people. We don't need special seats for women' - Marape. (Zarriga, 2022)
 - 'Character or conduct deserving reward, honor or esteem' (Merriam Webster definition)
 - The political environment in PNG can be described as hostile.



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2. Taking a leaf out of the Bougainville and Motu Koita example

- Bougainville HOR (33 seats), 3 reserved for women, 3 reserved for ex-combatants.
- Last five elections, 2 women elected outside of reserved seats.
- All vote for women candidates contesting RS
- Moving away from view that reserved seats are 'women' seats
- Increases confidence in women as leaders

Motu Koita Assembly

- 17 seats, two reserved for women, only women can vote for the reserved seats.
- 'The law recognized women by reserving two seats for them - female candidate Mae Isaac.' (The National 2018)

“Our land is destroyed and our rivers are poisoned. Kids are drinking and bathing in the polluted water and getting sick. New areas of land are still being flooded with the waste from the mine. We urgently need Rio Tinto to come back and deal with these problems so our communities can find healing.”

The Human Rights Law Centre will continue to work with our partners and the mine-affected communities to shine a spotlight on this appalling legacy and compel Rio Tinto to address these urgent problems.



Theonila Roka Matbob - a traditional landowner from Makosi village - just defeated 16 men to win the seat of loro in the Bougainville general election, where counting of votes is continuing. Panguna is at the centre of her electorate

Conclusion

1. Recommendations (NDI report)
2. *Han mak* (NRI 2017)
3. Electoral reforms

