

MAMA LO BILONG INDIPENDEN STET BILONG PAPUA NIUGINI

Tok Igo Pas

CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Preamble









**LONG TINGIM PAPA
BILONG KANTRI BILONG
YUMI, GRAND CHIEF
SIR MICHAEL SOMARE**

IN HONOUR OF OUR FATHER OF THE NATION, GRAND CHIEF **SIR MICHAEL SOMARE**



**TAIM YU RITIM DISPELA,
TINGIM WANEM OL HAP TOK
EM IMPOTEN LONG YU, NA
BILONG WANEM**

**AS YOU READ THIS, REFLECT ON WHAT WORDS ARE
IMPORTANT TO YOU - AND WHY.**

CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PREAMBLE

Adoption of Constitution

WE, THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA—

- united in one nation
- pay homage to the memory of our ancestors—the source of our strength and origin of our combined heritage
- acknowledge the worthy customs and traditional wisdoms of our people—which have come down to us from generation to generation
- pledge ourselves to guard and pass on to those who come after us our noble traditions and the Christian principles that are ours now.

By authority of our inherent right as ancient, free and independent peoples

WE, THE PEOPLE, do now establish this sovereign nation and declare ourselves, under the guiding hand of God, to be the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

AND WE ASSERT, by virtue of that authority

- that all power belongs to the people—acting through their duly elected representatives
- that respect for the dignity of the individual and community interdependence are basic principles of our society
- that we guard with our lives our national identity, integrity and self-respect
- that we reject violence and seek consensus as a means of solving our common problems
- that our national wealth, won by honest, hard work be equitably shared by all

WE DO NOW THEREFORE DECLARE

- that we, having resolved to enact a Constitution for the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

AND ACTING through our Constituent Assembly on 15 August 1975

HEREBY ESTABLISH, ADOPT and **GIVE TO OURSELVES** this Constitution to come into effect on Independence Day, that is 16 September 1975.

MAMA LO BILONG INDIPENDEN STET BILONG PAPUA NIUGINI

TOK IGO PAS

Kisim Mama Lo

YUMI, OL MANMERI BILONG PAPUA NIUGINI—

- sanap olsem wanpela nesen
- na yumi tingim ol tumbuna lain bilong yumi –we strong bilong yumi i kam long ol na as tru bilong olgeta samting yumi gat
- Givim luksave long ol gutpela kastom na gutpela tingting bilong ol tumbuna pasin bilong ol pipol bilong yumi – we yumi kisim i kam daun long ol tumbuna na tumbuna lain
- yumi nau mekim strongpela tok long banisim na lainim ol gutpela pasin tumbuna na ol bikpela Kristen wei bilong yumi, we yumi ken lainim ol lain i kam bihain.

Wantaim atoriti bilong yumi olsem wanpla pipol we igat stori tumbuna bilong bipo, we i bin stap fri na indipenden

MIPELA, OL MANMERI, nau i kirapim dispela kantri i sanap em yet na tokaut long mipela yet, aninit long stia bilong han bilong God, long sanap olsem Indipenden Stet bilong Papua Niugini

NA MIPELA TOKAUT, antap long dispela atoriti pawa

- Olsem olgeta pawa i bilong ol manmeri – luksave bilong dispela pawa i stap long han bilong ol memba husait i makim maus bilong wan wan lain
- Displa luksave bilong gutnem bilong wan wan manmeri na auslain helpim arapela em ol bikpela as tingting bilong sosaiti bilong yumi.
- bai yumi mas banisim gut nem na pasin bilong rispektim lo yumi yet wantaim laip bilong yumi
- Bai yumi lusim pasin bilong pait na bai yumi bihainim pasin bilong stretim toktok long stretim ol hevi bilong yumi.
- Olgeta moni bilong kantri, we i kamap long trupela hat wok, yumi mas burukim gut namel long olgeta manmeri wantaim wankain mak

YUMI NAU TOKAUT TRU OLSEM

- Yumi pasim tok pinis long kamapim wanpela Mama Lo bilong Indipenden Stet bilong Papua Niugini

NA KAMAPIM aninit long Mama Lo Asembli bliong yumi long 15 Ogas, 1975.

HIA MIPLA KAMAPIM, KISIM na **GIVIM LONG MIPLA YET** dispela Mama Lo long mekim wok long Indipendens Dei, em long 16 Septemba, 1975

IN SO DOING WE, THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SET BEFORE OURSELVES THESE NATIONAL GOALS AND DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERLIE OUR CONSTITUTION:

NATIONAL GOALS AND DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES.

WE HEREBY PROCLAIM the following aims as our National Goals, and direct all persons and bodies, corporate and unincorporated, to be guided by these our declared Directives in pursuing and achieving our aims:—

1. Integral human development.

We declare our first goal to be for every person to be dynamically involved in the process of freeing himself or herself from every form of domination or oppression so that each man or woman will have the opportunity to develop as a whole person in relationship with others.

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (1) everyone to be involved in our endeavours to achieve integral human development of the whole person for every person and to seek fulfilment through his or her contribution to the common good; and
- (2) education to be based on mutual respect and dialogue, and to promote awareness of our human potential and motivation to achieve our National Goals through self-reliant effort; and
- (3) all forms of beneficial creativity, including sciences and cultures, to be actively encouraged; and
- (4) improvement in the level of nutrition and the standard of public health to enable our people to attain self fulfilment; and
- (5) the family unit to be recognized as the fundamental basis of our society, and for every step to be taken to promote the moral, cultural, economic and social standing of the Melanesian family; and
- (6) Development to take place primarily through the use of Papua New Guinean forms of social and political organization.

TAIM YUMI MEKIM OLSEM, YUMI OL MANMERI BILONG PAPUA NIUGINI, PUTIM OL DISPELA AS TINGTING NA OL LO BILONG GIVIM STIA OLSEM STRONG BILONG MAMA LO BILONG YUMI:

AS TINGTING NA OL LO BILONG GIVIM STIA.

NAU YUMI TOKAUT olsem dispela ol Lo na ol As Tingting bai olgeta man na meri, kopret na ino koporet mas bihainim na mekim ol wok bilong ol bikpela tingting bilong yumi:—

1. Integral human developmen.

Mipela tokaut olsem namba wan gol bilong mipela em bilong olgeta manmeri long wok strong long kamap fri na noken larim narapela lain i bosim ol o mekim nogut long ol na bai wan wan man o meri bai inap long kamap gutpela man o meri long stap wantaim ol arapela lain.

OLSEM NA MIPELA MEKIM SINGAUT LONG —

- (1) olgeta lain mas wok bung wantaim mipela long kamapim gutpela sidaun bilong olgeta wan wan manmeri na long inapim tingting bilong ol wantaim hatwok bilong ol yet long gutpela bilong manmeri na
- (2) gutpela skul i mas kam wantaim luksave na toktok wantaim, na long strongim save long wanem samting mipela inap long kamapim long inapim ol As Tingting long strong bilong yumi yet; na
- (3) olgeta kain stail bilong kamapim samting bilong helpim mipela yet, olsem saiens na kalsa, mas kamap strong; na
- (4) senisim mak bilong kaikai na mak bilong pablik helt long helpim ol manmeri long stap wantaim bel isi; na
- (5) I mas gat luksave bilong wan wan femili olsem em i bun bilong sosaiti bilong yumi, na yumi mas mekim olgeta samting long strongim gutpela tingting, long kalsa, iekonomik na sosel laip bilong wanpela femili bilong Melanesia; na
- (6) Wok developmen mas kamap long sosel na gavaman grup wei bilong Papua Niugini.



**YU TING BILONG WANEM NA MAMA LO
I TOK STRONG OLSEM YUMI MAS KISIM
SAVE LONG WOK BILONG SAIENS?**

**OLSEM WANEM BAI OL MANMERI
BILONG PNG KEN KISIM GUTPELA HELT
SEVIS LONG GAVAMAN?**

**WHY DO YOU THINK THE CONSTITUTION EMPHASIZES THAT
WE SHOULD LEARN FROM SCIENCE?**

**HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT PEOPLE OF PNG HAVE ACCESS TO
GOOD HEALTH?**

2. Equality and participation

We declare our second goal to be for all citizens to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the development of our country.

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (1) an equal opportunity for every citizen to take part in the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of the country; and
- (2) the creation of political structures that will enable effective, meaningful participation by our people in that life, and in view of the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of our people for those structures to provide for substantial decentralization of all forms of government activity; and
- (3) every effort to be made to achieve an equitable distribution of incomes and other benefits of development among individuals and throughout the various parts of the country; and
- (4) equalization of services in all parts of the country, and for every citizen to have equal access to legal processes and all services, governmental and otherwise, that are required for the fulfilment of his or her real needs and aspirations; and
- (5) **equal participation by women citizens in all political, economic, social and religious activities;** and
- (6) the maximization of the number of citizens participating in every aspect of development; and
- (7) active steps to be taken to facilitate the organization and legal recognition of all groups engaging in development activities; and
- (8) means to be provided to ensure that any citizen can exercise his personal creativity and enterprise in pursuit of fulfilment that is consistent with the common good, and for no citizen to be deprived of this opportunity because of the predominant position of another; and
- (9) every citizen to be able to participate, either directly or through a representative, in the consideration of any matter affecting his interests or the interests of his community; and
- (10) all persons and governmental bodies of Papua New Guinea to ensure that, as far as possible, political and official bodies are so composed as to be broadly representative of citizens from the various areas of the country; and
- (11) all persons and governmental bodies to endeavour to achieve universal literacy in Pisin, Hiri Motu or English, and in "tok ples" or "ita eda tano gado"; and
- (12) **recognition of the principles that a complete relationship in marriage rests on equality of rights and duties of the partners, and that responsible parenthood is based on that equality.**

2. Wok bung wantaim long wankain mak

Mipela tokaut long nambatu as tingting em bilong olgeta sitisen imas gat wankain sans long wok, na kisim pei long developmen bilong kantri bilong yumi.

OLSEM NA MIPELA SINGAUT LONG —

- (1) olgeta sitisen i mas gat wankain sans long wok long gavaman, iekonomik, sosel, lotu na laip kalsa bilong kantri; na
- (2) kamapim ol politikol straksa we bai inap long kamapim rot bilong olgeta manmeri iken wok wantaim long dispela kain wei, na long tingim planti kalsa na kain kain kastom bilong ol manmeri bai givim stail long ol dispela straksa inap long bringim ol kain kain wok bilong gavaman igo daun long ol; na
- (3) yumi mas traim olgeta rot long brukim gut ol moni na ol arapela samting i kamap long ol developmen wok namel long olgeta manmeri na insait long olgeta hap bilong kantri; na
- (4) ol sevis imas go long olgeta hap bilong kantri, na olgeta sitisen mas inap long kisim wankain helpim long ol kot na olgeta sevis bilong gavaman na long ol arapela lain, we wan wan sitisen i nidim long inapim laik na tingting bilong en; na
- (5) **ol meri bai gat wankain mak long wok insait long gavaman, iekonomik, sosel na lotu wok; na**
- (6) Imas gat moa sitisen i kisim wok insait long olgeta kain developmen wok; na
- (7) Trupela wok i mas kamap bilong helpim wok bilong olgeta grup we i mekim wok developmen; na
- (8) I mas gat rot bilong ol wan wan sitisen iken yusim save bilong ol long mekim bisnis long save bilong ol yet na bilong painim rot bilong kamapim gutpela sindaun bilong olgeta, na nogat wanpela man o meri imas abrusim dispela sans olsem narapela lain i gat bikpela posisen i passim rot; na
- (9) wan wan sitisen imas inap long mekim wok em yet, o wantaim narapela namel man, long gutpela bilong em o bilong auslain bilong en; na
- (10) olgeta manmeri na ol gavman bodi bilong Papua Niugini imas mekim olgeta rot long strong bilong ol yet, ol politikal na ol opisal bodi i mas kamap bilong makim olgeta sitisen long olgeta hap bilong kantri; na
- (11) olgeta pipol na ol gavaman bodi i mas wok strong long kisim save long rit na rait long Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu o Tok Inglis, na long “tok ples” o “ita eda tano gado”; na
- (12) **Luksave bilong ol bikpela kastom olsem gutpela marit laip em taim tupela marit i gat wankain rait na wok, na wok bilong lukautim pikinini olsem papa na mama i stap antap long dispel wankain rait.**



**BILONG WANEM NA YU TING TOK I GO
PAS BILONG
MAMA LO I TOK STRONG LONG OL MAN
NA MERI IMAS
KISIM WANKAIN LUKSAVE**

**KISIM WANKAIN LUKSAVE EM MINIM
WANEM LONG YU?**

**WHY DO YOU THINK THE PREAMBLE EMPHASIZES EQUALITY
BETWEEN
MEN AND WOMEN?**

WHAT DOES EQUALITY MEAN TO YOU?

3. National sovereignty and self-reliance.

We declare our third goal to be for Papua New Guinea to be politically and economically independent, and our economy basically self-reliant.

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (1) our leaders to be committed to these National Goals and Directive Principles, to ensure that their freedom to make decisions is not restricted by obligations to or relationship with others, and to make all of their decisions in the national interest; and
- (2) all governmental bodies to base their planning for political, economic and social development on these Goals and Principles; and
- (3) internal interdependence and solidarity among citizens, and between provinces, to be actively promoted; and
- (4) citizens and governmental bodies to have control of the bulk of economic enterprise and production; and
- (5) strict control of foreign investment capital and wise assessment of foreign ideas and values so that these will be subordinate to the goal of national sovereignty and self-reliance, and in particular for the entry of foreign capital to be geared to internal social and economic policies and to the integrity of the Nation and the People; and
- (6) the State to take effective measures to control and actively participate in the national economy, and in particular to control major enterprises engaged in the exploitation of natural resources; and
- (7) economic development to take place primarily by the use of skills and resources available in the country either from citizens or the State and not in dependence on imported skills and resources; and
- (8) the constant recognition of our sovereignty, which must not be undermined by dependence on foreign assistance of any sort, and in particular for no investment, military or foreign-aid agreement or understanding to be entered into that imperils our self-reliance and self-respect, or our commitment to these National Goals and Directive Principles, or that may lead to substantial dependence upon or influence by any country, investor, lender or donor.

3. Kantri kamap indipenden na helpim yumi yet.

Mipela i tokaut long namba tri as tingting olsem Papua Niugini i mas helpim em yet long politik na ikonomi, na ikonomi blong yumi mas sanap long strong bilong em yet.

OLSEM NA MIPELA SINGAUT LONG —

- (1) ol lida bilong yumi mas bihainim tru ol dispela As Tingting na ol Lo Bilong Givim Stia, long was olsem ol i fri long mekim disisen na ino gat samting bai pasim rot olsem ol igat dinau o sampla toktok wantaim sampela lain, ol i ken mekim nesenal disisen; na
- (2) olgeta gavaman bodi mas kirapim ol plen bilong ol long gavaman, ikonomik na sosel development long ol dispela As Tingting na ol Lo bilong Givim Stia; na
- (3) strongim pasin bilong helpim narapela mas stap namel long ol sitisen, na namel long ol provins; na
- (4) ol sitisen na gavaman bodi long bosim bikpela hap bilong ol bisnis na prodaksen; na
- (5) bosim gut ol invesmen moni ikam long narapela kantri na long skelim gut ol tingting na veliu bilong ol narapela kantri, long ol dispela tingting na veliu mas stap aninit long as tingting bilong kantri stap indipenden na sanap long strong bilong em yet, bilong moni ikam long narapela kantri mas go long helpim ol sosel na ikonomi polisi na long gutpela nem bilong Kantri na ol Pipol; na
- (6) Stet mas mekim wok stret bilong bosim na mekim wok bilong nesenal ikonomi, na long bosim ol bikpela kampani we i mekim wok insait long ol nesurel risos; na
- (7) ikonomik developmen bai kamap pastaim tru wantaim save na ol risos i stap pinis insait long kantri olsem bilong wan wan sitisen o Stet na ino long ol save na ol risos ikam long ol narapela kantri; na
- (8) Olgeta taim luksave bilong yumi olsem yumi indipenden, na yumi no ken larim ol kain helpim bilong ol narapela kantri, olsem nogat wanpela invesmen, long ami o foren-eid agrimen o wanbel toktok yumi mekim we inap kamapim birua long pasin bilong yumi yet sanap na gutnem blong yumi, o komitmen bilong yumi long ol dispela As Tingting na ol Lo bilong Givim Stia, o we inap long mekim yumi wet long helpim bilong ol narapela kantri, investa, lain i givim moni o dona long bosim yumi.

4. Natural resources and environment.

We declare our fourth goal to be for Papua New Guinea's natural resources and environment to be conserved and used for the collective benefit of us all, and be replenished for the benefit of future generations.

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (1) wise use to be made of our natural resources and the environment in and on the land or seabed, in the sea, under the land, and in the air, in the interests of our development and in trust for future generations; and
- (2) the conservation and replenishment, for the benefit of ourselves and posterity, of the environment and its sacred, scenic, and historical qualities; and
- (3) all necessary steps to be taken to give adequate protection to our valued birds, animals, fish, insects, plants and trees.

**WHAT NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTS IN PNG DO YOU
TREASURE MOST? WHY?**

4. Nesurel risos na bus graun, na wara.

Yumi tokaut long namba foa as tintin bilong yumi em bilong yumi mas lukautim gut ol nesurel risos, bus, graun na wara bilong Papua Niugini na yumi usim bilong helpim yumi olgeta wantaim, na yumi mas kamapim gen bilong ol tumbuna lain i kam bihain.

OLSEM NA MIPELA SINGAUT LONG —

- (1) yusim gut ol nesurel risos bilong yumi na ol bus, graun na wara insait long graun na antap long graun o aninit long solwara, insait long solwara, aninit long graun, na antap long skai, long wokim developmen bilong yumi na lukautim bilong ol tumbuna lain i kam bihain; na
- (2) Lukautim na kamapim gen, bilong gutpela bilong yumi yet na bilong bihain taim, long envairomen na ol lo tambu bilong en, ol naispla ples na long tumbuna stori bilong graun; na
- (3) yumi mas mekim olgeta rot long banisim gut ol pisin bilong yumi we igat nem na gutpela tumas, ol enimal, pis, liklik binatang, ol bus na ol diwai.

**WANEM KAIN OL NESUREL RISOS NA OL BUS,
GRAUN NA WARABLONGPNG YU SAVE HOLIM
STRONG LONG BEL? BILONG WANEM?**

5. Papua New Guinean ways.

We declare our fifth goal to be to achieve development primarily through the use of Papua New Guinean forms of social, political and economic organization.

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (1) a fundamental re-orientation of our attitudes and the institutions of government, commerce, education and religion towards Papua New Guinean forms of participation, consultation, and consensus, and a continuous renewal of the responsiveness of these institutions to the needs and attitudes of the People; and
- (2) particular emphasis in our economic development to be placed on small-scale artisan, service and business activity; and
- (3) **recognition that the cultural, commercial and ethnic diversity of our people is a positive strength, and for the fostering of a respect for, and appreciation of, traditional ways of life and culture,** including language, in all their richness and variety, as well as for a willingness to apply these ways dynamically and creatively for the tasks of development; and
- (4) traditional villages and communities to remain as viable units of Papua New Guinean society, and for active steps to be taken to improve their cultural, social, economic and ethical quality.

**WHAT TRADITIONAL WAYS
ARE IMPORTANT TO CARRY FORWARD
INTO THE FUTURE? WHY?**

5. Ol pasin bilong Papua Niugini

Mipela tokaut long namba 5 As Tingting bilong mipela em bilong usim ol Papua Niugini pasin bilong sosel, gavaman na iekonomik ogenaísesen.

OLSEM NA MIPELA SINGAUT LONG —

- (1) bikpela senis imas kamap long ol pasin bilong yumi na ol institusen bilong gavman, komes, edukesen na lotu, long ol wei bilong Papua Niugini save bung wantaim long wok, toktok wantaim, na kamapim wanbel, na olgeta taim kamapim gen toktok bilong ol dispela institusen long nid na pasin bilong ol Pipol; na
- (2) Bikpela moa toktok long iekonomik developmen bilong yumi em long helpim ol lain i usim save bilong ol long kamapim ol wok long han bilong ol yet, sevis na wok bisnis; na
- (3) luksave olsem kalsa, komesel na planti kain lain manmeri na auslain, em strong bilong yumi, na long gat pasin bilong rispekt na tok tenkyu long pasin tumbuna na kalsa, olsem kain kain tok peles, na tu long laik bilong yumi long mekim ol dispela kain wei i strong wantaim stail bilong ol wok developmen; na
- (4) ol peles kanaka na ol auslain i mas stap yet olsem ol liklik sosaiti bilong Papua Niugini, na long kisim ol dispela step long kamapim gut ol kalsa bilong ol, sosel, iekonomik na gutpela tingting.

**WANEM KAIN PASIN TUMBUNA EM IMPOTEN
LONG KARIM IGO LONG BIHAIN TAIM?
BILONG WANEM?**





Basic Rights.

WE HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that, subject to any restrictions imposed by law on non-citizens, all persons in our country are entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, the right, whatever their race, tribe, places of origin, political opinion, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the legitimate public interest, to each of the following:—

WE ACCORDINGLY CALL FOR—

- (a) life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law; and
- (b) the right to take part in political activities; and
- (c) freedom from inhuman treatment and forced labour; and
- (d) freedom of conscience, of expression, of information and of assembly and association; and
- (e) freedom of employment and freedom of movement; and
- (f) protection for the privacy of their homes and other property and from unjust deprivation of property,

and have accordingly included in this Constitution provisions designed to afford protection to those rights and freedoms, subject to such limitations on that protection as are contained in those provisions, being limitations primarily designed to ensure that the enjoyment of the acknowledged rights and freedoms by an individual does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the legitimate public interest.

Ol Rait.

MIPELA NAU TOKAUT olsem, ausait long sampela lo bai tambuim ol lain bilong narapela kantri, olgeta manmeri long kantri bilong yumi igat ol rait na friidom bilong wan wan man, em long tok olsem, rait, maski wanem kain manmeri, traib, asples, tingting long gavaman, skin kala, bilip o man o meri, ol bai mas rispektim rait na friidom bilong ol arapela na bilong gutpela sindaun bilong pablik, long wan wan bilong ol dispela samting:—

OLSEM NA MIPLA SINGAUT LONG —

- (a) laip, friidom, sekuriti bilong wan wan manmeri na banis bilong lo; na
- (b) rait bilong stap insait long ol wok long gavaman; na
- (c) stap fri long pasin bilong bagarapim narapela na long kalabus bilong wok leba nating; na
- (d) fri long tingting, long autim tingting, bilong ol toksave na bilong ol manmeri i kamap bung na asosiesen; na
- (e) fri long painim wok na fri long igo ikam insait long kantri; na
- (f) banisim ol insait long haus bilong ol na ol arapela propeti samting ol igat na long ol lain ikam rausim nating ol samting ol igat, na long dispela as igat insait long dispela Mama Lo, ol rot bilong banisim ol dispela rait na friidom, bihainim ol mak i stap insait long ol dispela tok stia, ol mak we ol i kamapim pastaim tru long was olsem friidom bilong wanpela i amamasim em yet bai ino inap long rabisim rait na friidom bilong ol arapela o laik bilong ol pablik.

Basic Social Obligations.

WE HEREBY DECLARE that all persons in our country have the following basic obligations to themselves and their descendants, to each other, and to the Nation:—

- (a) to respect, and to act in the spirit of, this Constitution; and
- (b) to recognize that they can fully develop their capabilities and advance their true interests only by active participation in the development of the national community as a whole; and
- (c) to exercise the rights guaranteed or conferred by this Constitution, and to use the opportunities made available to them under it to participate fully in the government of the Nation; and
- (d) to protect Papua New Guinea and to safeguard the national wealth, resources and environment in the interests not only of the present generation but also of future generations; and
- (e) to work according to their talents in socially useful employment, and if necessary to create for themselves legitimate opportunities for such employment; and
- (f) to respect the rights and freedoms of others, and to co-operate fully with others in the interests of interdependence and solidarity; and
- (g) to contribute, as required by law, according to their means to the revenues required for the advancement of the Nation and the purposes of Papua New Guinea; and
- (h) in the case of parents, to support, assist and educate their children (whether born in or out of wedlock), and in particular to give them a true understanding of their basic rights and obligations and of the National Goals and Directive Principles; and
- (i) in the case of the children, to respect their parents.

IN ADDITION, WE HEREBY DECLARE that all citizens have an obligation to themselves and their descendants, to each other and to the Nation to use profits from economic activities in the advancement of our country and our people, and that the law may impose a similar obligation on non-citizens carrying on economic activities in or from our country.

Wok bilong olgeta.

MIPELA TOKAUT LONG olsem olgeta manmeri insait long kantri bilong yumi i gat wok bilong lukautim ol yet na ol tumbuna lain bilong ol bihain taim, na long ol narapela, na long Nesen:—

- (a) long repektim, na mekim pasin bihainim toktok bilong, dispela Mama Lo; na
- (b) long luksave olsem ol inap long kamapim strong save bilong ol na go het wantaim trupela laik bilong ol sapos i givim han long wok developmen bilong kantri olsem wanpela bikpela auslain; na
- (c) long usim ol rait we dispela Mama Lo i givim, na long usim ol sans i stap long ol i ken usim long mekim wok wantaim gavaman bilong Kantri; na
- (d) long banisim Papua Niugini na long lukautim gut moni bilong kantri, ol risos na bus wara na graun long gutpela bilong ol manmeri long nau na tu bilong ol tumbuna lain i kam bihain; na
- (e) long mekim wantaim save bilong ol long kisim wok, gutpela wok moni, na sapos ol imas kamapim ol trupela rot bilong ol yet long kisim kain wok olsem; na
- (f) long rispektim ol rait na fridom bilong ol arapela, na long wanbel tru wantaim ol arapela long strongim pasin bilong helpim wanpela narapela na sanap strong wantaim; na
- (g) long givim ol moni olsem lo i tok, we ol inap long givim, long mak bilong ol yet long moni ol i nidim long helpim kantri long gro na long wok bilong Papua Niugini; na
- (h) toktok bilong ol papamama, long sapotim, helpim na putim ol pikinini blong ol long skul (we ol i karim insait long marit o i kamap ausait long marit), long givim luksave long trupela rait bilong ol na ol wok bilong ol na bilong ol As Tingting bilong Kantri na ol Lo Bilong Givim Stia; na
- (i) Long toktok bilong ol pikinini, long luksave lo ol papamama bilong ol.

NA TU, MIPELA I TOKAUT olsem olgeta sitisen igat wok long ol yet na ol tumbuna lain bilong ol long bihain, long ol narapela na long Kantri long usim ol moni i kam long ol iekonomik wok, long kirapim kantri go het na ol manmeri bilong yumi, na olsem lo iken tok long wankain wok long ol lain ino sitisen husat i mekim ol iekonomik wok insait long kantri bilong yumi o long kantri bilong yumi.



BILONG HELPIM LONG KAMAPIM GUTPELA DEVELOPMEN BILONG PNG YU KEN:

- LAINIM MOA LONG KALSA NA PASIN TUMBUNA BILONG YU - TOKTOK WANTAIM OL LAPUN, O GO LONG BIKPELA HAUS TUMBUNA**
- WOK VOLUNTIA WANTAIM OL OGENAISESEN HUSAIT I SAVE TOKAUT LONG PABLIK HELT, BANISIM OL BUS, WARA NA GRAUN, O EDUKESSEN.**
- LAINIM LONG OL WEI GAVAMAN BILONG YU, I SAVE MEKIM OL WOK.**

TO CONTRIBUTE TO PNG'S POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT YOU CAN:

- LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS - SPEAK TO YOUR ELDERS OR VISIT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.**
- VOLUNTEER WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR EDUCATION.**
- LEARN HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT WORKS.**

Nothing is as precious as a life lived free from fear and in full freedom. The PNG Constitution remains a roadmap to equality, development, and the realization of the full potential of every Papua New Guinean – woman or man. This was the vision that drove the call for Independence, and it remains a guiding principle and call to action any time the country comes together to celebrate and to mourn, as we saw with the passing of the Father of the Nation, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare.

In times of sorrow and joy, it is important to come back to what brings this diverse land of a thousand tribes and 800 languages together. In less than one hundred years, Papua New Guinea has emerged from its own history and stepped into a future that is still unknowable. While the rest of the world has paid for its knowledge and experience in blood and loss of an unimaginable scale over hundreds of years, Papua New Guinea lived according to its own timeline, customs, traditions, and codes, largely spared from outside influence. Now the timeline for PNG has merged with other nations, making its future both promising and challenging.

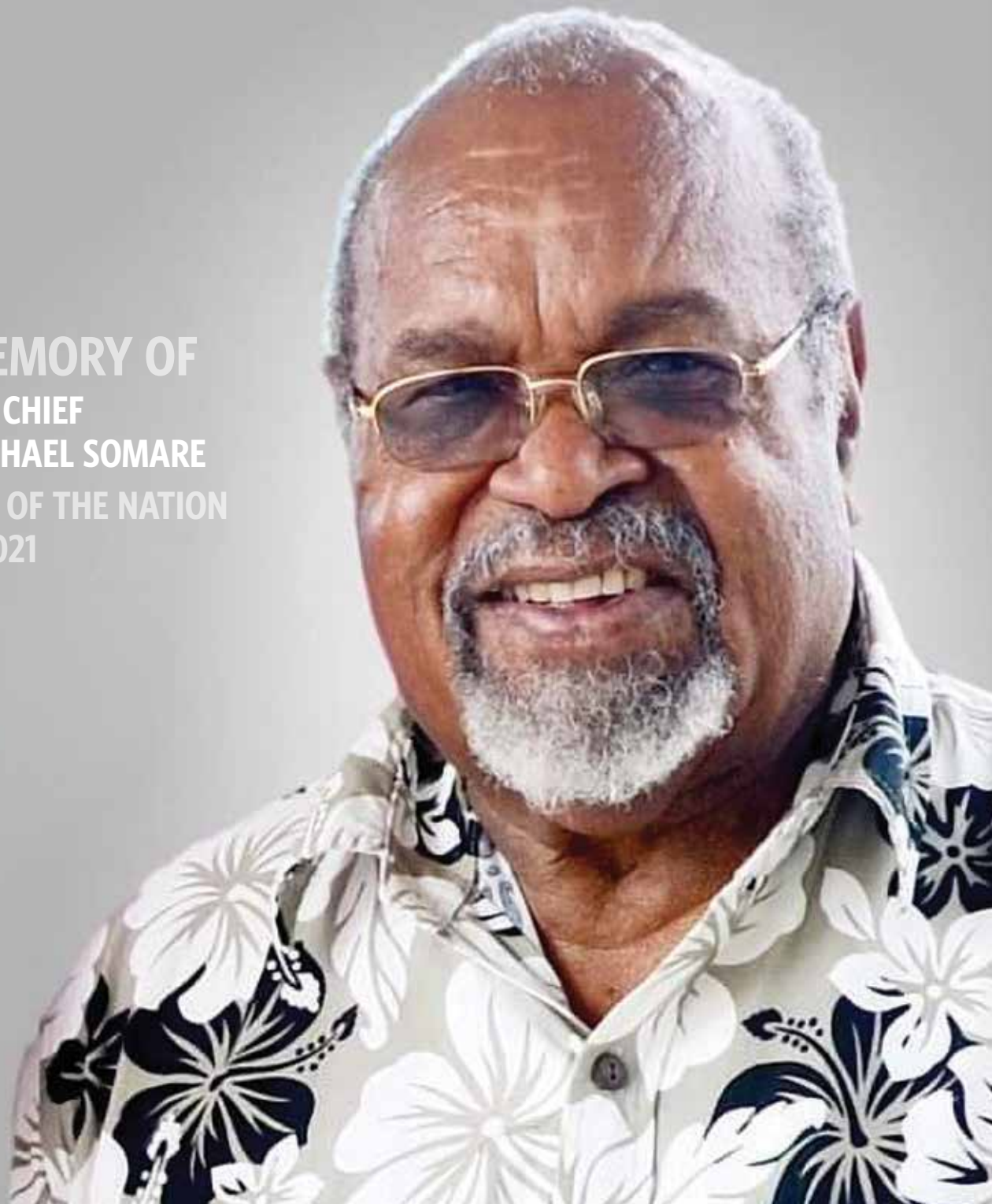
The 21st century meets PNG at a crossroads and its identity will be tested. With a young, dynamic population, the country is poised to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend if national priorities and investments are made in line with the vision of its Constitution: the right to health, education, and employment; the right to embrace the best traditions of the past and to carry them forward proudly into the present and beyond. Above all, the right for women to gain the freedom, opportunity and respect already freely given to men, but hard won by women. Papua New Guinea will be faced with many choices along its new timeline that will challenge its development trajectory, but it will not lose itself if its citizens are reminded of their rights and responsibilities to work together for the collective benefit of the nation, so that their children and future generations can benefit from this legacy.

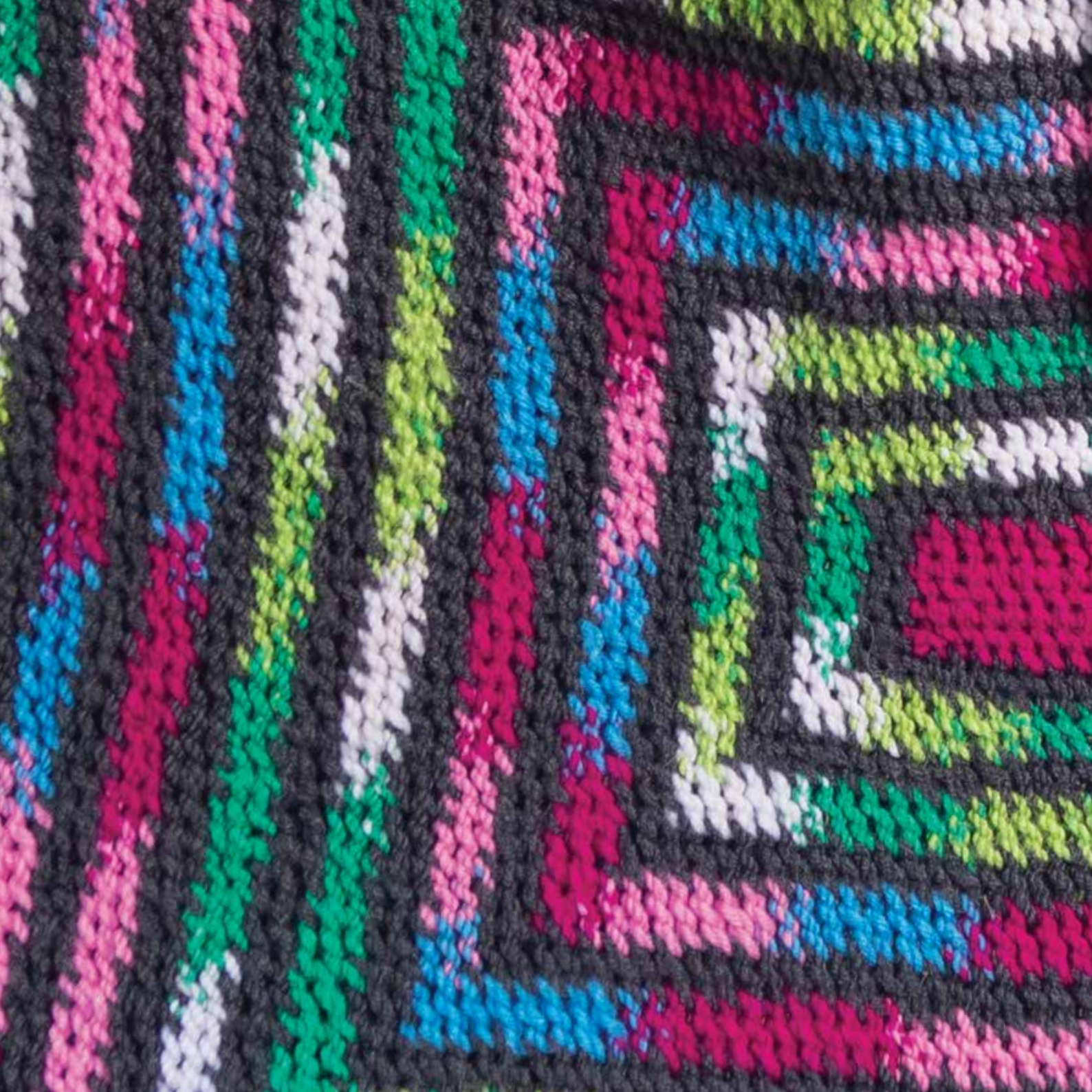
The Constitution of Papua New Guinea is the original sustainable development roadmap for the nation. It inspired the vision 2050 and was decades ahead of the call to action for the Sustainable Development Goals. Such a document cannot be forgotten; instead, it must be shared widely and reflected upon by the men and women, girls and boys that are alive today so that they too are inspired to achieve the promises as written in their Constitution. In commemorating the journey and achievements of its most famous son, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, in this Tok Pisin translation of the Preamble, we hope it is also an opportunity to inspire others to walk the same path towards freedom, equality of opportunity and wellbeing of all Papua New Guineans.

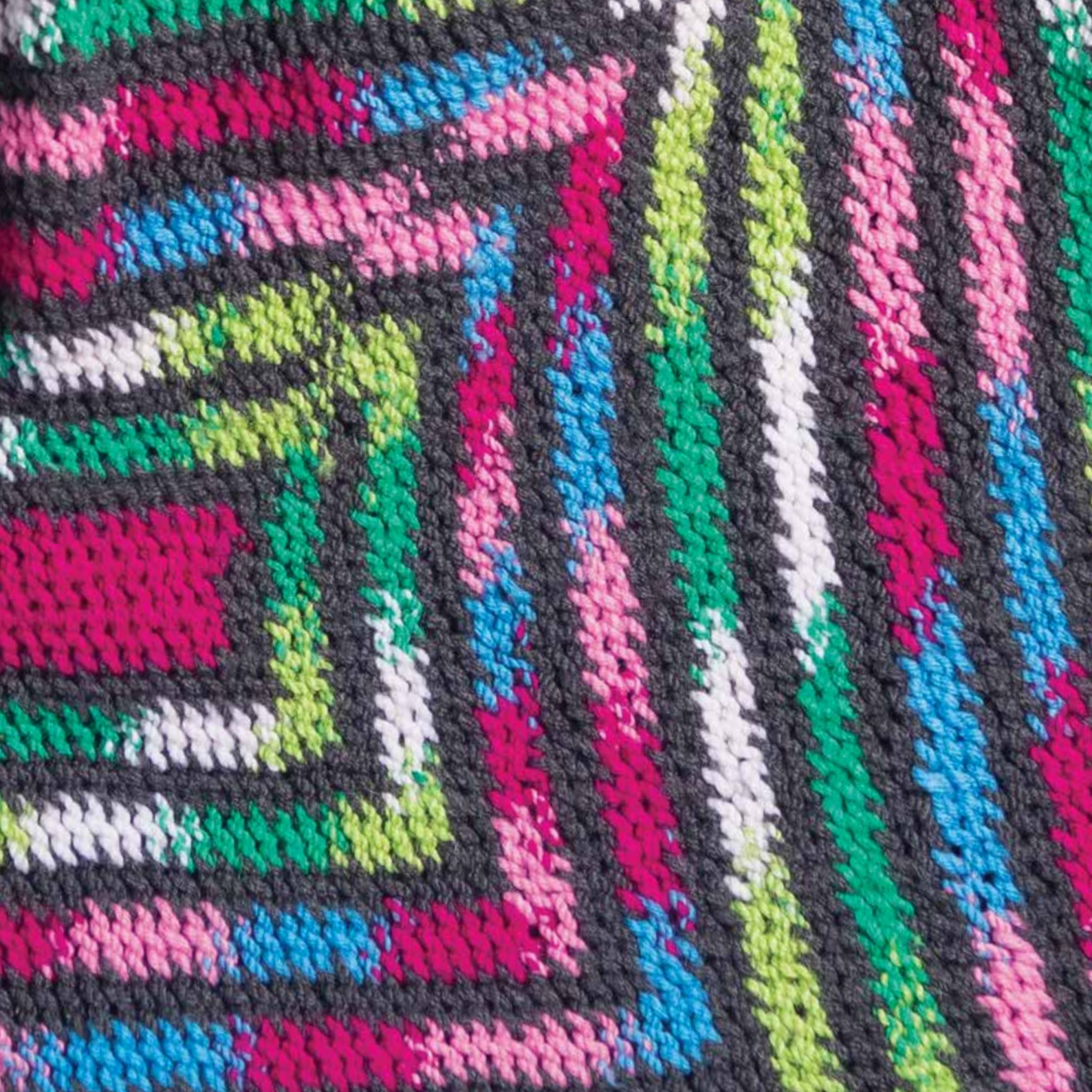


Marielle Sander
UNFPA Representative
Papua New Guinea

**IN MEMORY OF
GRAND CHIEF
SIR MICHAEL SOMARE
FATHER OF THE NATION
1936-2021**







Scan to learn the story
behind the bilum patterns



Papua New Guinea

