

The Baha'is of Papua New Guinea
Official Statement
Commemorating the Life and Vision of the Great Grand Chief, Sir Michael T. Somare

The Baha'i Community of Papua New Guinea stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters across the nation in expressing deep respect, honour and gratitude to the Great Grand Chief, Sir Michael T. Somare for his life-long dedication and service to all people of our beautifully diverse country.

His towering example of genuine humble leadership; his generosity and sincerity of spirit which touched the lives of so many people from all walks of life; his power for forgiveness and acute focus to work tirelessly for a peaceful and united country; his simple and modest life despite the trappings of prominence that followed him; his courage to live honorably, compassionately and with decency; and his graceful manner of extending friendship to all - are well-documented tributes that are etched firmly as part of his vast legacy and will continue to inspire generations to come.

As has been expressed by multitudes both at home and abroad over the last few weeks, the Great Grand Chief's vision set out at the birth of our country was meticulously and deliberately built on timeless and noble principles such as Peace, Unity in Diversity, Justice and the Oneness of People.

At this momentous and unique time of Papua New Guinea's young and vibrant history, galvanised by the fond memories and inspiring stories of the Great Grand Chief, may we all endeavour to turn our reflections to the high aspirations envisaged by our nation's founding father.

Indeed, may each of us as individuals, communities and institutions be compelled to direct our sincere efforts and labour towards the noble principles upon which our country was founded and that in doing so steadily and with calm determination unfold the universal prosperity which is long desired by all.

The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men.

Bahá'u'lláh



The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established.

Bahá'u'lláh

With solemn hearts,

Office of External Affairs for the Bahá'is of Papua New Guinea