**Media Statement**

**By the Catholic Professionals Society of PNG**

**Concerning foreign organisations and governments meddling in with the traditional and Christian marriage beliefs, values, and laws in the pretext of promoting LGBTQ Rights**

PNG is founded on the noble traditions and Christian Principles adopted in the preamble of our national Constitution. Our marriage laws affirm the traditional and Christian foundations on which this nation is built on.

While polygamy is recognised under Section 3 of the Marriage Act reflecting the socio-cultural reality of the traditional PNG Melanesian society, the law at the same time affirms the Church’s Christian principled meaning of marriage being – “**the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of others, voluntarily entered into for life**” (Section 41 of the Marriage Act). This is the law in PNG today and at the founding of this nation.

PNG marriage law follows the Christian meaning of marriage, “a union between one man and one woman” (Genesis 2:24) and its permanency for life and sanctity (Mt 19: 1-12 and 1Cor 7: 10-11). Even Church law cannot deviate from the Scriptural foundations. A State or nation, which meddles with the divine order and natural law will end up fighting God and nature. The story of what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19: 1-29 presents acts of homosexuality as acts of grave depravity (CCC 2357). Traditionally the Catholic Church has declared that, “homo sexual acts are intrinsically disordered”. They are contrary to natural law (CCC 2357). However, persons of LGBTQ must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity, and acts of unjust discrimination must be avoided (CCC 2358).

What some Catholic Church leaders say on Marriage and homosexuality:

**Marriage:** Cardinal Walter Kasper

“A part of the Church’s teaching is that a man and a woman leave their families and “become one flesh”. This fundamental reality of marriage is only possible for one man and one woman. Persons of the same sex cannot enter a marriage.

It is a fraudulent label and a serious violation of their competencies when states speak of a same-sex-marriage because states cannot define human nature. They can regulate the temporal matter of society, but they cannot determine the moral law.”

**Same-sex-marriage:** Cardinal Gerhard Muller – former Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith

“Regarding the fact that already many states have implemented such laws permitting same-sex-marriages, **we do not need to change our (Church) position because it is the right one**. We do not need to accept a false position. **What marriage is, cannot be defined by the state because it is a reality outside of the state. These are competencies that are God’s and not the state’s.** That is why the role of the church must be here a critical and prophetic one, not one that adapts itself in a weak manner. The church cannot adapt her sexual morality to the purported modern morality. It is clearly formulated in the catholic church’s Catechism and in other documents of the church’s Magisterium.

**Materialism -** Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect for Congregation for the Liturgy

The greatest threat to Christian culture is materialism. “It is destroying a man to say to him: ‘You are free to choose your sex.’ It is really the freedom to destroy oneself. But God alone makes us free! Nowadays only human destruction, under the pretext of freedom! In the name of the same freedom, many young people are destroyed by pornography.”

We are here about the protection of the sanctity of marriage and against acts of homosexuality, not against the other human rights of LGBTQs such as freedom to live without discrimination and abuse, freedom of expression, movement, employment, etc. LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans-gender and Queer (strange or odd).

PNG law prohibits and makes it criminal offence acts of sexual immorality, which go against the order of nature including homosexuality and bestiality, such as sexual acts between persons of the same sex or with animals is a crime under Section 210 of the Criminal Code Act. It is a law that is morally right and godly. Any amendment to provide otherwise will be ungodly and against natural law which will be beyond the competency of the State government.

To the LGBTQ brothers and sisters there is no judgment or discrimination against your right and freedom to live in PNG. This country is yours as much as others. While judgment is reserved to God, it is our common faith as Christians to follow the word of God and to avoid any acts of choice which are clearly against the word of God. We all are being challenged to find inner peace and freedom towards the path of chastity and fidelity in our own state or conditions of life. We can only pray on God’s grace for courage against extreme secular urges and to avoid spiritually evil and harmful choices.

To our friends from Australia and the Western world we will reject any agenda that will impact on the morality of our laws, policies, noble traditional beliefs and Christian principles we adopted in our Constitution. Certainly the promotion of same sex marriage and homosexuality in the pretext of advancing LGBTQ rights is one such agenda we reject. Just because Australia and the Western nations have their laws allowing same sex marriages or homosexual conduct does not mean that PNG follows the same. Australia could be abusing her diplomatic immunity and using her traditional relationship with PNG to push her culture of spiritual and moral death and destruction.

In reference to the hoisting and display of LGBTQ flags publicly on some office buildings around Port Moresby a post on the Australian High Commission Page questions the protagonists of the LGBTQ rights asking – when was the last time international organisations and foreign nations flew a flag for victims of sorcery related killings, or victims of genocide, or victims of great diseases in the world, or a flag for domestic violence victim, or a flag for sex-traffic victims, or persecuted religions, or victims of gun violence, or victims of tribal war, or victims of child abuse or sexual abuse or domestic violence? If you are going to fly a flag for an oppressed group, you might as well fly a flag for every single oppressed group in the world.

To our political leaders and public office holders we use Jesus’ parable in John’s Gospel, Chapter 10 where Jesus describes four characters of leadership. They are; thief, robber, hired man, and shepherd. Thief acts in secrecy. Thief takes without asking and without the owner seeing and knowing about the theft. A robber is different. A robber will take in full view and might even use threat or actual violence on the victim. Hired man works for money. No money no work. A shepherd takes care of the sheep and feeds them. He is known. He looks for the lost sheep and keeps under his care.

Challenge for our leaders is, which of the four characters in John 10 do you fit? If you are like the thief, robber, or hired man, the LGBTQ agenda will slip pass under your eyes without notice. If you are like the good shepherd who we challenge you to be, you will easily recognise the LGBTQ agenda by its real name, that we must expose and reject the protagonists and provocateurs and their hidden intentions.

We call on our leaders of government, civil service, churches and people to be vigilant against any blind reception of advices and terms and conditions from foreign aid givers and funding donors which are aimed at eroding and destroying our founding values, beliefs, faith and morality.

We believe the LGBTQ campaign is one of the hidden agenda’s being pushed by foreign and international organisations and governments with impunity and disrespect to our norms and beliefs. We remind us that money is not all in life for PNG and Melanesia. Our worthy traditional and Christian beliefs and values also add to life and meaning to our wellbeing. We have a duty to safeguard these values, beliefs and principles for the present and future generations.

We hope the Government can take heed of this issue. If PNG is to pursue the dream of becoming the richest black Christian nation issues of moral values and principles, beliefs and faith must be vigilantly safeguarded. PNG is not without a culture of godliness to be pushed a regressive and repugnant one. We must reject the use of cheque-book diplomacy to ruin our life.

May God continue to bless and protect our nation and our people.

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**Paul Harricknen**

President

Catholic Professionals Society PNG