



# FORTY-NINTH SESSION

## Hansard Report

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**THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**MADAM SPEAKER TOOK THE CHAIR AT 10.00 a.m.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**MADAM SPEAKER (N. RATTLE):** Honourable Members please be seated.

Madam Speaker welcomed Honourable Members and outlined the programme for the Ceremonial Opening.

The House waited for the Queen's Messenger to arrive.

**MESSENGER KNOCKS ON THE DOOR**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** The Messenger has arrived. Let the messenger in.

**MESSENGER:** Madam Speaker, His Excellency the Queen's Representative summons the Members of Parliament to His Chamber.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now we will depart for the Queen Representative's Chamber.

**Sitting suspended at 10.20 a.m.**

**Sitting resumed at 2.00 p.m.**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Please be seated.

Welcome back Honourable Members. I have to say that was a wonderful occasion. It's my very first occasion as such and the first time for most of us, many of us – quite an experience and what a wonderful speech that was.

Our Parliament is now resumed.

Honourable Members, I would like to report that Parliament had attended upon the Queen's Representative and that His Excellency had been pleased to make a speech to Parliament and the text of which had been handed to me by His Excellency.

And I lay this on the Table.

We will now go to the oral Notice of Motion for a respectful Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech from the Throne.

I would like to call on the Prime Minister please.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Greetings everyone in this Honourable House.

Before I go on to move the Motion, I would like to express my utmost appreciation as you have witnessed the beautiful occasion that we saw at the Opening Ceremony. Our people were able to join us for this special occasion. It was a very honourable occasion and we had our beautiful Cook Islands people join us. The three pillars of our community. A special mention to our theological students from Takamoa for the beautiful singing and entertainment they provided for us.

Special mention also to all our school students with their teachers who were able to join us and stand as guards of honour. My sincere gratitude also extends to His Excellency, the Queen's Representative for his beautiful speech. I was waiting for his voice to break because of the length of the speech. I think he might have done some voice training because it was presented well.

Thank you very much also to our Interpreter, Tangata Vainerere.

We've heard the speech that was delivered from the Throne. Madam Speaker, I must say that today the early ceremony is enough for our people to have witnessed something beautiful. If we might keep going there might be some back-talk from our people. I think we've said enough for all of them to hear. I have discussed with the Leader of the Opposition and they also have the same idea that this is enough for today.

Madam Speaker, I will move a Motion before this House. We should appropriately leave the reply to tomorrow after the presentation of the Budget by the Minister of Finance.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I move:

**That we reply to the Address from His Excellency but to defer that for tomorrow after the presentation of the Appropriation Bill**

Thank you Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** May I just continue.

Mr Prime Minister, could you just move the Motion as such again so I can get a Secunder and before we continue, come back to you.

I beg your pardon. If you just read your Motion as you have indicated in your Notice. Please read the Motion and then we will continue from there.

**HON. H. PUNA:** Madam Speaker, I move:

**That a respectful Address be presented to His Excellency, the Queen's Representative in reply to His Excellency's Message from the Throne and that we embark on the debate on the Reply starting tomorrow after the presentation of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance**

Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Could I call a Secunder for the Motion please? I see the Honourable Selina Napa.

**MRS S. NAPA:** Madam Speaker, before I second the Motion, if I could just add a little statement for Seconding the Motion?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** If you are seconding the Motion you second first before you can speak please.

**Seconded by the Honourable Member Selina Napa**

You may speak.

**MRS S. NAPA:** Madam Speaker, if I may, I wish to speak to it.

Just a little point, can I please request a copy of the speech for each and every one of our side?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, okay.

**MRS S. NAPA:** So we may be able to view and be able to address it at the appropriate time. May I please request in both English and the Maori translation and I also support this Motion.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you very much.

There's a Motion on the Floor and I put the Question.

The Question is:

**That the Motion be agreed to?**

**Motion agreed to**

Parliament will now adjourn until tomorrow morning, Friday 21 at 10.00 a.m.

I call on the Leader of the House for the Closing Prayer.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Parliament adjourned at 2.10 p.m.**