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VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA PARLIMENT

The Papua New Guinea Constitutional Law Review Committee should revisit and review the 18 months Grace Period Vote of No Confidence.

The Grace Period of 18-month period expired and for any successful Motion of Confidence that was to be moved and passed by Parliament must meet certain stringent requirements;

Currently under the Constitution and what transpired on the Floor of Parliament, the acting Speaking rejection of the Vote of No Confidence falls within the two categories as explained by one of our Veteran Constitutional Lawyers and I quote:

1. It does not grant the Prime Minister another 18-month grace period. Any Prime Minister would have another 18 months grace period if he resigned as Prime Minister and got re-elected as Prime Minister. In the case, Prime Minister did not resign and got re-elected, but the Vote of Confidence only demonstrated that the Government was intact and solid.

2. The Vote of Confidence did not invalidate, nullify, or defeat the Motion of No Confidence submitted to the Speaker of Parliament and pending deliberations by the Parliamentary Committee.

The Motion of No Confidence will still be moved any time from until 12 months before the next General Election.

The Motion of No Confidence is allowed and provided for by the Constitution of PNG.

It is a constitutional process sanctioned by the Constitution to hold the Executive Government accountable to the people through their elected representatives in the National Parliament. This is the constitutional check and balance process in constitutional democratic governments.

Even if Motion of No Confidence is unsuccessful, Opposition can still always move some more Motions of No Confidence prior to 12 months before the next general election.

What happened this morning on the floor of Parliament was only a show of the usual Parliamentary gymnastics and chess games.

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From the above I draw some personal opinions and my opinions are as Follows:

We should do away with constant unnecessary vote of no confidence in our democracy and look at measures aim at promoting stability, accountability, and effective governance

Here are some steps that can be taken:

1 .Strengthen the democratic Institutions:

Focus on building robust democratic institutions such as an independent judiciary, a free press includes civil societies must established in all sectors of our individual electorates and tasked to report unbiased factual information on performances of individual elected officials from all sectors of the country, that is, from the local level government to provincial government on all facets of performances acquittal, prudence management of funds, project deliveries and national government performance on general socioeconomic management of the country.

These civil society institutions must be established in all electorates throughout the country and shall serve as development and acquittal assessors on the performances of all elected leaders. This process is simply giving powers back to the people in every council wards throughout the country for filtering performance processes of all elected officials, those bipartisan civil societies recommends on performances of all elected officials in its respective electorates and recommend to Constitutional Bipartisan Office established on all Vote of No Confidence. The Bipartisan Team recommends to the Governor General to recommend the Office of the Speaker of National Parliament for vote of no confidence against any elected officials. This filtering process would help prevent unnecessary motion of no confidence against party that have majority number invited by the Governor General formed government.

2. Promote Transparent Government.

Encourage transparency and accountability in government by implementing measures like public disclosure of Political Party Funding's, stricture regulations on lobbying and open-access to government information's. This helps reduce the incentives for opportunities and unnecessary motion of no confidence.

3. Political Party Discipline

Encourage Political Parties to maintain internal discipline by setting clear procedures for resolving internal conflicts and discouraging MPs from switching parties frequently or destabilizing the government personal reasons or gains.

4. Constructive Opposition

Encourages Opposition parties to focus on constructive criticisms, rigorous debates and offering policy alternatives rather than solely seeking to defame and bring down any legitimate government. Promote Political culture that values collaboration, bipartisan and consensus-building of our country.

5. Revision of the Electoral System

Consider revising the electoral system to promote greater stability. For instance, adopting a system that allows for proportional representation or a mixed system of First-past-post and proportional representation may reduce polarization and political stability.

6. Recall Mechanisms:

Consider introducing recall mechanisms that allows citizens to hold elected representatives accountable between elections. This provides an alternative to motions of no confidence, where constitution can initiate a proceedings to remove an elected official if they have lost confidence in the performance in their individual electorate, These will decrease the political party numbers, henceforth, give rise to the office of the Integrity of Political Parties through the office of the Governor General and request the Speaker of Parliament for Vote of No Confidence in Government. The recall mechanisms of the members of local level council, presidents, local members of parliament and governors will make elected officials work closely with people in all tiers of government in service deliverables as powers being decentralizing power back to the people.

7. Engage in Public Education

Promote civic education and public engagement to enhance citizens understanding of the democratic principles, political processes, and consequences of the frequent motion of no confidence. This will and can foster more informed electorates and discourage support for unnecessary motions and power on recalling of elected officials of each electorate, and its consequential impacts on vote of no confidence.

8. Encourage Coalition Governments:

Foster culture of coalition building, especially to avoid fragmentation in PNG political landscapes, Coalition government will promote stability with equitable representation to create stability, peace cooperation and unity.

It's important to remember, that in countries like Papua New Guinea with 800 plus different languages, cultures, norms and beliefs in governing its own territories or electoral boundaries and are hard to find the right balance between stability and accountability complex process, that requires a thorough understanding of each contexts and unique challenges.

Therefore, I believed, giving power back to people to assess every elected official performances in each electorates **will minimizes** members crossing floors, leaving political parties, joining new parties at will, bribes, nepotisms, unnecessary vote of no confidence, instability in governments and creating chaos in stable governance and government systems. Giving powers back to the people will certainly determine the fate of individual members of parliament party affiliations and would have caused ascend and descend numbers of political parties.

The Electoral Commission, after the grace period of 18 months or any other time deemed appropriate, depending on party political party with majority numbers shall be nominated to Governor General to recalled parliament. This practice of government formation shall be in conjunction with laws on integrity of political parties on the formation government after general elections rather than on the floor of parliament through the members of parliament. This will encourage government of the day with majority numbers of elected members to run affairs of the country without fear or favor and holistically manage real socio-economic issues and affairs of the country rather bombarded with and managing

affairs of imminent Vote of No Confidences 18 months in 18 months out government system of our democracy.

TIN THINK

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