

# Pacific Women in Leadership Weekly Digest

## CHOGM: CALLS FOR STRONGER ACTION ON GENDER EQUALITY



The Commonwealth Women's Forum has opened in Samoa with calls for renewed action on achieving gender equality.

The forum, which got underway in Apia on Sunday, is part of the weeklong Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting or CHOGM.

The Commonwealth of Nations was formed to maintain an association between countries that had once been part of the British colonies.

There are 56 Commonwealth member states from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, Europe, and the Pacific – Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Sāmoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, New Zealand, and Australia.

About 4000 delegates are expected to gather in Apia this week for the discussions, which will include geopolitics and climate.

–PACIFIC MEDIA NETWORK

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## CHOGM: 'LET US LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE' - SAMOA PRIME MINISTER



The 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is about putting vulnerable groups at the front, Samoan Prime Minister Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa says.

The summit kicked off in Apia on Monday, with forums focusing on women, youth and people held in various venues in Apia.

Delegations from 56 countries will converge on the island for a series of side meetings and forums throughout the week, before the Heads of Government meeting itself on Friday.

In her opening address, Fiamē said the "historic week" is about "meaningful dialogue and impactful collaboration across our Commonwealth family.

"The [people, women and youth forums] we are launching this morning represent the critical voices of our people especially the women the youth and our children," she said.

"Let us listen to the voices of the people, our Commonwealth youth and feel the hopes of our children rising with the changing tides."

In attendance were the Commonwealth secretary-general, government officials from Pacific and Caribbean nations and youth representatives.

-RNZ PACIFIC

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## WOMEN MPS FACE RESTRICTIONS: QEREQERETABUA



Fiji may have noted a shift in the mindset towards women in leadership, but there are restrictions for women in parliament, says Deputy Speaker for Parliament and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Lenora Qereqeretabua.

The view was shared at a panel discussion on Women in Leadership at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting underway in Apia, Samoa.

She says the variation in the type of leadership among women, either in opposition or government, impacts their role as the voice of people in parliament.

Qereqeretabua says the contrast is evident in how women can step on any toe in opposition while they have to toe the line in government as a member of parliament.

*"I think that's where the aspect of leadership can change, where you can be a rogue or a loose cannon sometimes in the opposition... But once you get into government, you do have to toe the party line."*

Qereqeretabua says such a limitation often applies a lot of pressure on women as they have to adhere to an agreement that is perceived as a weakness by the people that they represent in parliament.

-FBC NEWS

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