

# Grace Molisa's death a big

*Sela Molisa and his three children, Viran, Pala and Vatu, conveyed through Carol Nelson, their heartfelt gratitude to all, for their support and tributes to the life and work of Grace Molisa. They drew much comfort from the knowledge that they were not alone in mourning; that the people of the Pacific and further afield shared in their grief. Nonetheless, there was also quiet celebration for the greatness of Grace, which went some way in helping to ease their pain.*



An audience of several hundred people attended a day of mourning and commemoration at the Chief's Nakamal in Port Vila on Saturday. A similar congregation also attended the funeral service on Sunday at the PMC church in

Vila, where they formed a funeral cortege to the airport, from whence Grace's body was taken by the family to her final resting place. The journey included Ambae, the island of her birth, where a memorial was held. The mourners then flew on to Luganville on (Espiritu) Santo, where another service was held. Grace's coffin lay in state at the Sanma Women's Centre overnight to allow for her many Santo relatives and friends to pay their last respects. On Monday, the family accompanied the coffin to Sela's home village on the west coast of Santo, where Grace was buried.

Prime Minister Edward Natapei, in his eulogy at the Sunday service, referred to Grace as 'Amazing Grace' - a tribute which many of us have also applied to describe her sturdy vision for the emancipation of women across the Pacific, and for the elimination of all forms of human rights violations. Verily, it was a deserving honor that this hymn was sung as her coffin, draped in the national flag, was carried from the church on a serene Sunday.

*Amazing Grace  
- forever in our hearts.*

Courtesy: Carol Nelson