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Digicel says PM wants competition



Recruiting drive

Two camps emerging, NA vs PNG and New Generation parties

By ALEX RHEENEY

FIFTY-five is the magic number on the minds of political parties as their henchmen crisscross the country to woo newly declared MPs to join them.

The ruling coalition led by the National Alliance Party (NA) drew first blood yesterday morning when it whisked independent Kokopo MP-elect Patrick Tammur and Rabaul MP and Melanesian Liberal Party leader Dr Allan Marat to Wewak, East Sepik Province in the Government-owned Kumul aircraft.

Angoram MP and Public Enterprise, Information and Development Minister Arthur Somare was on hand at the Government Flying Unit at Port Moresby's Jacksons Airport after 9am yesterday to ensure the two East New Britain MPs got on the plane.

Mr Tammur and Dr Marat did not turn up at a planned meeting in Port Moresby on Tuesday with Lae MP and New Generation Party (NGP) leader Bart Philemon and were accompanied to Wewak yesterday by NA Cabinet minis-

snapshot GOVERNMENT SHAKE-UP

- **TARGET:** Independents being targeted by both camps.
- **WATCHING:** People's Progress Party (3 seats) not committed to either side.
- **HIGHLANDS BLOC:** Still not in the fold as counting continues.
- **CONFIDENT:** NA confident of being invited by Governor-General to form government.

ters Paul Tiensten, Michael Laimo and newly declared Vanimo Green MP-elect Belden Namah.

Another group of MPs, led by newly declared independent Sumkar MP Ken Fairweather, were waiting in Madang to be flown by helicopter to Wewak.

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PAGES 8 & 9: The Tally

PAGE 5: Supporters clash in Hoskins



KOKOPO MP-elect Patrick Oscar Tammur boards the Government Kumul bound for Wewak. He is among Independents being courted by the ruling National Alliance led coalition to join it. Picture: ALEX RHEENEY.

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