

TONY ABBOTT AND THE RINGS OF LEADERSHIP



Peter Adamis - Abalinx 31 January 2015

The past few weeks Australians have been subjected to demonstrations of disunity, leaks and disgruntled back benchers appearing not pleased with the decision making process within cabinet.

One expects that any decision within cabinet is binding upon the others followed by additional consultation to ensure harmony and eradication of recalcitrant parliamentarians if any. Leaders are chosen from amongst the members and they and they are alone are responsible for wearing the mantle of purple and to lead the government forward with the resources available them. Therefore any decision that is made by the Prime Minister should be respected especially when he (Tony Abbot in this case) makes a judgement call based on information that is made available to them at the time of the decision.

Sir Robert Menzies did it, Malcolm Fraser did, John Howard followed suite and so did Rudd and Gillard. Why then attack the current Prime Minister? Is it a payback call because some members were not happy with the back flips on 18C, the changes in portfolios and responsibilities, the lack of women in cabinet, the failure of some parliamentarians to be promoted or the recent knighting of Prince Phillip. Whatever the case may be, governments in their first term will always go through organisational changes and like any new boards will go through the "forming, storming and norming" stages of development. The current Government has many positive success stories to its credit but at times fails to convince the Australian people.

Whose fault it is and whose is responsible for the dissemination of cabinet decisions may not be the question but rather who influences those decisions and what is ultimate the long term gains and objectives. The government is responsible for the security of the nation and for the management of its resources while at the same time playing an active role in global affairs. These are heavy responsibilities and a good leader will always rely on the best possible talent and advisers to make those hard decisions. Tony Abbott is surrounded by an excellent team of advisers whose interests are for the welfare of Australia and for the nation's longevity and survival in a dynamic world that is forever changing.

Changes in cabinet are not made on the whim of one or two individuals but through a rigorous process that involves the minds of many and what is best for the country based on member's abilities strengths and past performance. One can be sure that it is not an easy task, but one that is always in the best interests of Australia. Journalists who are being paid to comment and write about what they are fed or

pick up have a licence to jam pack their articles with juicy items that will attract the reader's attention and thus enable their employer to raise the revenue so to speak. In addition the journalist creates a following based on the quality of their articles and with time are respected for their alleged unbiased commentaries and opinions.

Tony Abbot whether you like him or not is a charismatic and canny leader who enjoys the role of leadership and has the political experience behind him to lead the Liberal party and that of the government forward. It is true that it may not have been an easy beginning and that the road to meeting objectives have been a rocky one, but and it's a big but, no one can criticise him or his cabinet for making those decisions that were in the best interests of this country we call home. Let us look at some of the success stories to date and out things into perspective.

The data retention may appear silly to some, but the benefits far outweigh the negative aspects of such a policy, the turning back of the boats, another success story. A success story in that it has sent a powerful message back to the smugglers and purveyors of human flesh for profit. Then let us not forget the trashing of the carbon tax and the positive effect it has had on struggling families. The changes in border protection, laws against those who leave the safety of our shores to fight in wars that is not in the interests of Australia. The increased protection against domestic terrorism and radicals bent on destroying our way of life. The changes to welfare and other services that were long overdue and the outcomes to date have been positive.

One does not have to be an Einstein to figure out why the government has taken this stance, it's quite obvious that they are preparing Australians to meet the future and to soften any financial downturn should the global financial markets became volatile and incompatible with our standard of living. Therefore to safeguard our markets, we as a nation must be competitive and on friendly terms with our immediate neighbours to our north as well as retaining and strengthening our long term allies.

On reflection when one looks at the record of Tony Abbott and compares it with his predecessors, Tony is by far kilometres in front and his policies and successive positive outcomes will be a legacy attributed to his leadership. No other member of cabinet has the leadership skills and abilities to take on the mantle of purple and to attempt to do so will only result in the purple dye staining their bloody hands.

Let not the innocuous paradigms of the past interfere with the government's policies which are designed to strength the fabric of our society and lay the foundations for future generations yet to come. Leadership comes in many forms and wearing of the purple does not mean a good leader. Tony abbot by far has demonstrated that he has earned the title of Prime Minster and that others should rally even more behind his banner. Whether readers agree is a matter of conjecture and let history be the judge of Tony Abbott's leadership and not the recalcitrant observers who belong to a bygone era.



Peter Adamis is a Journalist/Commentator and writer. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538