



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Second Session of the 41st Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by Her Majesty the Queen, when Her Majesty was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this session of Parliament together.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I am pleased once again to exercise my prerogative to open, in person, the second session of this 41st Parliament. To take my place here, as part of the New Zealand Parliament, underlines the firm hold of the constitutional monarchy in New Zealand.

During my reign this country has been well served by distinguished Governors-General. Those holding that office in recent years have been New Zealanders by birth. They have ably reflected those enduring values and standards which unite us as a nation. The Maori people have contributed much to these values and standards, and I gratefully acknowledge their apt address of welcome, and their waiata on coming to this place today.

This is my seventh visit to these islands, and the Duke of Edinburgh's ninth. Although such visits are usually brief, and taken up largely with official duties, we always feel at home here. Since my husband and I last visited you in 1981, other members of our family have been among you: the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1983, and my youngest son, Prince Edward, had the memorable experience of working among you for some months. These visits reinforce the links between the monarchy and the nation.