

Prefect of Thessaloniki prefecture, Mr Panayiotis Psomiades:

“MACEDONIA IS ONE AND ONLY & IT IS HELLENIC!!”

“Macedonia is one and only and it is Hellenic” emphasised the Prefect of Thessaloniki prefecture, Mr Panayiotis Psomiades, at his brief speech during the dinner in honour of his presence and official visit from Greece, organised by the Pan-Macedonian Association of Sydney and NSW last Thursday night at the full-house Macedonian Club “Alexander the Great”, Marrickville.

Mr Psomiades has been invited by the various Macedonian organisations of Australia to tour Australian cities and have official talks with the Macedonian community and all other Greek officials of Australia during the Macedonian celebrations “Dimitria” festival in the Antipodes in early November. Mr Psomiades’ main focus though had been the officiating of the new “Thessaloniki” square in Melbourne and his prefect’s gifts of statues of the Macedonian leader, Alexander the Great and of St Dimitrios, patron saint of the Macedonian city of Thessaloniki, to the city of Melbourne. Melbourne has a sister-city relationship with the second largest city of Greece, Thessaloniki, for several years now and this nominal gift is a mere token of appreciation between the Greek nation and the Australian nation and their strong bonds.

Mr Psomiades referring to the Greek national issue of Macedonia, spoke about the fact that Macedonia is 3000 years Hellenic whilst the new state neighbouring Greece in the north, after the dissolution of the old Yugoslavia bearing the pseudonym “Macedonia” but being recognised internationally as the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), is only 60 years old and has no right to the Greek historical name “Macedonia”. He made it clear that this fledging republic’s true name is “Vardaska” as it was known prior to its declaration by Yugoslav leader Josip Tito as the “Socialist Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and not with all the latest produced proposed names by the Nimetz negotiations as “Northern Macedonia” or any others.

Mr Psomiades stated that he himself being a Macedonian cannot and will not accept any other country usurping, appropriating and having any exclusive right to his own cultural identity, history and ethnicity. The Slavs of FYROM are just that, people of Slavonic stock, akin to the Serbians and Bulgarians, speaking a similar language as their Slav

neighbours and they should be proud of this; the ancient Macedonians spoke the Greek language and had the same gods and goddesses as the rest of the city-states of ancient Greece, just as the modern Macedonians of northern Greece. He reminded that Alexander the Great or Alexander the Macedonian originated from northern Greece, from the kingdom of Macedonia and he united all the Greeks to build a Greek speaking and Greek cultural dominated empire in the then known world with a multicultural mix. The Macedonia region, the largest region of Greece, is dotted with uncountable Hellenic cultural monuments and artefacts. All stones and monuments are in the Greek language and not in any Yugoslav language, he added. The FYROM is a travesty of the truth, Mr Psomiades noted and paralleled humorously this new land locked Balkan country, stealing the Greek identity as a “transvestite”, flaunting herself around the world in a “stolen attire”.

Mr Psomiades said emphatically that a week ago, Greece, celebrated the “OHI” national day when she said “No” to the invading Italians in 1940 so therefore in modern times, the incumbent Karamanlis government should say “OHI” (“No”) to the degrading negotiations between Greece and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. “How is it that we, the real Macedonians, the Greeks are sitting on a negotiating table with diplomats of a country that is using our name, our identity, our culture, our history of 3000 years?” Mr Psomiades asked only to respond to this by saying that the United States are responsible for fuelling the intransigence displayed by the FYROM officials at the current supposed UN sponsored talks in New York and particularly its ultranationalistic Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski. He added that the Macedonians and all other Greeks have nothing against their northern neighbour saying

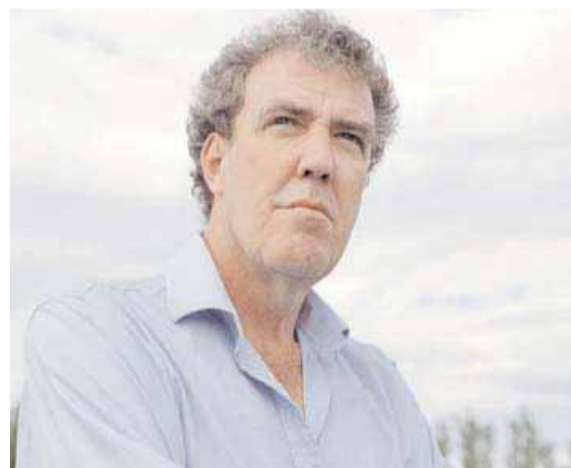
that Greece which is the largest foreign investor in that new state, would like to see the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia make its entry into the EURO-Atlantic structures, as long as it meets the necessary criteria set out, including the name settlement dispute.

In closing his reference to the sensitive Macedonian issue, the prefect of Thessaloniki stated the obvious once again, saying that Alexander the Great is one and only and Macedonia is one and only.

In making references to other current issues of Macedonia region and Greece in genera, he said that politicians should listen more often to people’s problems in society whilst our biggest investment is in our Greek youth riddling it from drugs and other evils. He urged the Greek diaspora to instil further the Greek values and language in the children and youth. In particular, with Greeks originating from Macedonia he said they ought to ensure the passing on of characteristic Macedonian traditions and customs onto their children. Mr Psomiades accepted a variety of questions by the audience on numerous issues and alternating between humour and seriousness, gave his personal and New Democracy political party responses to the Macedonian issue, the student driven school sit-ins in Greece, the financial crisis around the world and others to name a few.

The evening concluded with Dimitris and Stavroula’s Pan-Macedonian “Aristotle” Dancing group which performed brilliantly authentic traditional Macedonian dances from the areas of Edessa, Kastoria, Drama and Thessaloniki under the Macedonian musical instrument of the gaida as well as with the Pontian Dancing School “The Argonauts” performing authentic Pontian music with the characteristic Pontian lyra.

Dimtris Kametopoulos



Jeremy Clarkson racist "Greece is a toilet" comments

Greek Londoner’s are incensed at a recent article by Jeremy Clarkson in The Sun in which he describes Greece as a toilet, is this the last outrage to get Clarkson the boot?

By John Kaponi

The BBC Top Gear and Sun columnist Jeremy Clarkson has angered the Greek population of the United Kingdom with racist and insensitive comments made in his weekly newspaper column in the Saturday edition of The Sun, were describes Greece as a “toilet”.

In an article "Holiday ad cuts a'tache" Clarkson refers to a recent campaign by the Greek National Tourist board in London, were a women is pictured with Clarkson referring "and a girl who didn't look all that Greek either. She didn't have a moustache for instance".

Clarkson referred recently to lorry drivers murdering

prostitutes and was given a warning by the BBC, but to insult an entire nation in this manner is way off the mark. The London Daily News has formally written to the editor of The Sun and a formal complaint is being made to the Press Complaints Commission which has strict guidelines over accuracy:

i) The Press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures.

iii) The Press, whilst free to be partisan, must distinguish clearly between comment, conjecture and fact." Had these comments been made about Muslims or African-Caribbean's there would have been calls for Clarkson immediate dismissal in any case The Sun has not made any remedy to date.

The London Daily News calls for Clarkson to be sacked from The Sun for making these comments.

Laiki Bank passes on full 0.75% rate cut on home loans New advertised rate to be 6.95% p.a.

Laiki Bank today announced that it will pass on the full 0.75 per cent rate cut announced by the Reserve Bank of Australia, to its home loan customers. Laiki Bank’s Options Plus Home Loan package, offers one of the most competitive home loan product of any bank in Australia. Following the rate reduction Laiki Bank home loan borrowers will enjoy a low rate of only 6.95% p.a. (comparison rate 7.04% p.a). The new rate will be effective from 24th of November 2008 and will save up to a further \$169 off their monthly mortgage repayments (on a loan of \$350,000). “At Laiki Bank we always endeavour to offer highly competitive banking products, without compromising on personal service. In the current global economic climate, customers need as much support from their bank as possible” said Mr Michalis Athanasiou, the General Manager of Laiki Bank Australia. “By passing on the maximum benefit of the full rate cut, we are helping home owners reduce their borrowing cost and save their much needed funds for other essential expenses in these tough times” he added. Laiki Bank is a subsidiary of Marfin Popular Bank, one of the most stable and secure banking institutions in the world, which is also backed by the highly capitalised Dubai Investment Group (see <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/article534673.ece>). Laiki Bank Australia has an excellent loan-to-deposit ratio, along with a strong capital position and quality asset portfolio. In addition to a reduced home loan rate, Laiki Bank customers will also benefit from one of the highest term deposit rates in the market, with a current 2-month special of 7.20% p.a. for deposits over \$200,000. Laiki Bank is eligible for the Australian Government guarantee on all deposits under the “foreign subsidiary banks” category, providing added assurance and comfort to its customers.