



August 2013 edition

Chief Ombudsman attends Human Rights Symposium

After commencing duty as the Chief Ombudsman of PNG, Rigo Lua delivered his first public speech as the Chief Ombudsman during a Human Rights Symposium at the Divine Word University in Madang on 28 August 2013 .

Chief Ombudsman Lua was invited to speak on the theme ‘The right to public memory and knowledge’ which deals with one’s right to public information. The theme was derived from the main theme of the symposium which stated ‘Human rights at the crossroads.’

His presentation focused on the impact of the right to information upon the work of the Ombudsman Commission (OC) especially in the discharge of its Constitutional duties relating to the administration of the Leadership Code and its pursuit to exposing and fighting corruption.

“The work of OC is largely dependent upon the co-operation and the inputs of the citizens of this country,” said CO Lua.

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VISION

Fair, just and effective leadership and good governance in Papua New Guinea.

MISSION

To promote and foster quality leadership and good governance and strengthen respect for Rule of Law in accordance with Section 218 of the Constitution.

The Ombudsman Commission is committed to (6) fundamental values in all dealings with government bodies, the private sector, members of the public and the leaders.

The values uphold are;

- ◇ Impartiality
- ◇ Integrity
- ◇ Independence
- ◇ Accountability
- ◇ Responsiveness
- ◇ Respect

[Ombudsman Commission Strategic Plan 2011– 2015]

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File photo: The famous Laraibina eel farm is one site, never to miss when you are visiting New Ireland Province. It is just a few kilometres outside Kavieng town. Seen in this picture is Roselyn Pochelep and Sam Kupul having a chance to feed the eels during a Public Education Program trip to New Ireland.

editorial

August edition of WasDok Newsletter

Hello readers!

Welcome to August's edition of the WasDok newsletter.

In this edition we bring you stories ranging from CO's participation in the Human Rights symposium at Divine Word University and induction program for LLG Presidents in Bulolo, Morobe Province.

Read stories of other activities of the month including a feature story of a Public Education Program in Manus.

Keep sending pictures and story tips for any interesting event happening at your end.

Cheers!
Editor

Record keeping should be mandatory: Lua

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"Even though OC is empowered to undertake investigations at its own initiative, it exercises this with extreme care. This is for very good reasons, one of which is to prevent criticism of 'witch hunting' and to avoid accusations of having vested interest in a person."

He said for these reasons investigations occur upon complaints received from concerned and affected citizens.

In his presentation, Chief Ombudsman Lua pointed out that the main reason behind successfully laying a complaint by a citizen to OC is because the law allows this. It permits a citizen to make a complaint and further permits the OC to take the complaint further by way of an investigation.

The Commission exercises its delegated role on behalf of the complainant by requesting, seeking, accessing and using information from leaders, persons, groups, organisations and from government officials depending on whatever the case maybe. However, in instances where information bearers refuse to provide information the Commission exercise its powers the law gives by way of summons.

"Obviously, the information seeking and requesting, and access to it will be futile if records are not kept, or if kept, will be difficult to find and access if they are improperly kept," said the Chief Ombudsman. He stated that experience is proving that in some instances information is hardly kept, and where it is been kept, it is improperly kept.

Chief Ombudsman Lua added that the law must come in to regulate this area and make record keeping mandatory on the part of Government, its institutions, agencies and public officials, if the State is serious about holding Government accountable and to fight against corruption. This is because without proper record keeping above will never be achieved and citizens will be denied their right to making informed choices and will not participate meaningfully in the democratic processes of the nation.



PEP in Madang Province

In its endeavour to educate the public on its roles and functions, the Ombudsman Commission carried out awareness in Madang from 25 - 31 August 2013. Allan Barilae - Regional Manager, Momase and Kuri Tumul - Investigator, Complaints Division visited mainly primary schools in the province and talked to students and teachers of Megiar, Alexishafen and Sagalau Primary schools.

A special visit was made to Beon Correctional Institute just outside of Madang town which OC officers spent time talking to the inmates. Seen in the picture is Mr Barilae talking to students of Sagalau Primary School.

Picture by Kuri Tumul

Greed & Opportunity creates high risk of corruption

Corruption occurs where there is a combination of two factors, greed and opportunity. Where there are un-enforced or weak anti-corruption policies, systems or procedures in place in an organization, it creates opportunities for corruption. If you reduce the opportunities, you reduce the risk. These were some of the areas highlighted in the Senior Executive Certificate Course for Strategic Management of Anti-Corruption Program recently. The course was funded by the Malaysia Technical Corporation Program.

Joseph Molita, Director Complaints Division attended the four-day training held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The course identified vulnerable areas in an organisation which provides opportunities for corrupt practices.

Mr Molita's report to the Commission stated that research shows that those functions in public and private sector organisations that are most susceptible to corruption are defined as 'hotspots'. Where there are no or un-enforced or weak anti-corruption policies, systems or procedures in place these are called 'weakspots'. If there is a weakspot it does not necessarily mean that there is corruption only that the risk is greater.

The report stated that if there were no policies, procedures or systems designed to limit opportunities for corruption than these were more prone to corrupt behaviours as the opportunity was greater.

It is important to know in every organisation there are corruption opportunities. Research shows that there are number of places or functions in an organisation that are vulnerable to corrupt behaviour. These are some examples of hotspots that one has to look out for in an organisation;

- Any situation where one person or a small group of people are engaged in exchanges of money, particularly cash;
- Any situation where one person or a small group of people are in a position to artificially create the circumstances that result in that person's) acquiring wealth at the expense of others;
- Any situation where one person or a small group of people have the power to issue or refuse licenses, approvals, grants, awards, registrations, application decisions and certificates etc.

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Bulolo holds induction workshop for LLG Presidents

Bulolo is the first district in the country after the LLG elections to take on the initiative to train its Local Level Government Presidents, Managers, Executive Officers and District Administration officers including the District Administrator to improve good governance practices at the district and local government levels. The Ombudsman Commission was pleased to be part of the team to conduct this induction workshop held in Bulolo on 26-28 August 2013.

This was an initiative by the Bulolo Open Member Honourable Sam Basil to strengthen the capacity of his districts and local governments' officials and leaders.

The three day session was aimed at educating them on their roles and responsibilities as well as the relationship between the different tiers of government and the public service machinery.

Presenters included Office of Vision 2050 from the Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council and the Ombudsman Commission.

The Ombudsman Commission presented an overview of its roles and functions, and the enforcement of the Leadership Code including statistics of leaders referred.

According to Ombudsman Commission presenter, Mr Gerega Asisi, the participants were grateful for the workshop and it was an eye opener for them especially presentations on the systems and processes of the government and the Leadership Code.

It was unfortunate that all the anticipated presenters from Port Moresby including the Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs did not attend.

OC Fellowship

Expecting Favours

A cold wind howled and rain beat down on the roof when the telephone rang in the country doctor's house.

"It's my wife," a voice said.
"She needs a doctor right away."

"Can you come and get me?" asked the doctor. "My car is being repaired."

"What?" came the sputtering answer.
"Go out on a night like this?"

And he slammed down the telephone.

Message:-

How often do we expect goods and services, which we ourselves would not give?

Our Lord said the same thing about the Pharisees in Mathew 23:4

"They tie onto people's backs loads that are heavy and hard to carry; yet, they are not willing to lift a finger to help them carry those loads."

*Frank Mihalic
DWI Publications and Kristen Pres*

The course helps create network between anti-corruption bodies

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"The course is to do with the work of anti-corruption bodies. The investigation techniques are more relevant for investigation of corrupt or criminal conduct," said Mr Molita.

He said although it does not relate directly to his area of work the course helped in his contribution to policy development which the Commission is expected to contribute to this country.

Mr Molita added that the course was more focused on management to create networks for Anti Corruption agencies. "By understanding the process we can work together with other relevant agencies especially Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) which is now in the process of being set up in PNG."

He said that the course was very timely to attend as it gave him very good information to use in assisting ICAC working committee in which he is part of.

The course also gave practical examples of creating good networking between states and how to resolve barrier between states. The Commission has always had issues with trying to get information overseas regarding alleged corrupt actions of the leaders.



On a fact finding mission...A delegation from Solomon Islands visited OC recently to learn about the Leadership Code and other processes of the Commission. The team comprised of Leadership Commission Chairman Mr Emmanuel Kouhata, Chairman of Government Taskforce on Political Integrity & Stability Mr Paul Tovua and the Chief Technical Advisor on Political Integrity & Stability Mr Moses Saitala.



The admiralty islands of Manus ...feature story

It is always a wonderful feeling to revisit your home province especially when you work and live outside. Kualum Tande is an Investigator in the Complaints Division of OCPNG. He shares his story of a duty trip to Manus where he comes from.



Momote airport is seen in the background.

It is always a beautiful sight when the plane descends on Momote airport. The final moments of touching down feels like dropping into the clear-blue sea and for many, it is that time when Air Niugini's regulations on the use of electronic devices are ignored. The obvious clicks of the camera let alone flashes from the tourist seated across from me. Naturally I quickly looked in front and then to the rear of the plane in case the cabin crews catch him using his camera. However they were all seated as usual, due to the landing instructions from the captain.

"The final moments of touching down feels like dropping into the clear-blue sea and for many, it is that time when Air Niugini's regulations on the use of electronic devices are ignored."

It was Saturday 3 August 2013 and here I was again admiring what I have seen a lot of times before but still each time it was like a new experience to me. Maybe I am prejudiced or biased because I am a proud Manusian but one has to admit that it is one of the best landings in Papua New Guinea. Speaking of Manusian, on the seat next to me was Ms Judith Sauto, a colleague from the Office of Counsel with her over-jealous 17-month old son Manu entertaining me on the 105-minute flight with his antics, a handful for his mother's small frame.

Just before midday we arrived at Momote airport. The notable omission from the travelling team was Mrs Dorothy Tamo from the



The Loniu bridge. It connects the island of Los Negros and the main island of Manus together. Momote airport is on the Los Negros island.

OC New Guinea Islands regional office in Kokopo who missed her supposedly transit flight the previous day and was unable to join us on the same flight. Consequently, the trip program changed and Ms Sauto and I

checked in at Harbour-side hotel to wait for Mrs Tamo who joined us on Monday 5 August 2013.

electorate in Manus province started on Monday when we picked up Mrs Tamo at the airport. After buying water and some assorted goods in town, we left Lorengau at about 5 in the afternoon for Nyada village, Ms Sauto's family home. The weather was ideal, we did not encounter rough seas which are common when the North-West wind makes its presence felt at this time of the year.

Dominic, Ms Sauto's small brother who is the LLG skipper (boat operator) brought us into Nyada passage at about 7pm to the delight of people, mostly children with lamps standing on the beach to welcome us.

The Sauto family prepared a hearty meal for us with lots of sago and fish as one would expect in most Manus households. Personally, to say I missed this cuisine is an understatement when I looked over at the 'Tolai lady' lost in her bowl of sago and fish. Mrs Tamo won the admiration from the locals especially kids seeing an outsider appreciate their hospitality and food. After the meal and a brief chit-chat with the host family we retired for the night. In fact that was our accommodation for the next four nights.



The Harbour-side hotel in Manus.

On Tuesday 6 August 2013, we started the PEP awareness from the furthest island of the Bisakani-Sobaribeu electorate, Bipi Island. After Bipi, we crossed over to Salien. We headed to Kali after the Salien stop-over. We were to cover Nihon Island however time was against us so we headed back to Nyada for the night.

The next day, we did the Nihon Island leg of the trip and left for Lessau. After Lessau, we headed up North to Harighan Island. With the beautiful setting sun beckon on the horizon we crossed the pristine blue sea back to Nyada.

Then it was the host village's turn for the awareness thus we walked over to the meeting area to the west-side of the island and talked to the people. When we were done with Nyada, the next stop was the two islands of Jowan (1 & 2), unfortunately just as we were about to head out to the open sea, the out boat motor faced a major mechanical fault and we got off to allow the operator and his assistants to work on it. The fault was extensive as a result we headed out to the two islands late in the afternoon and returned to Nyada afterwards.

The Public Education Program (PEP) for Bisakani-Sobaribeu



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'Home is where the heart is'

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Our final night in Nyada village was spent around the bonfire smoking the day's catch. In fact the host family went out to sea during the day to catch fish for us to bring back to Port Moresby. At the break of dawn on Friday 9 August 2013, we packed for our trip to Lorengau. We woke up at 4:30am and by 5:30am we bid farewell to the host family and the villagers who came out to shake hands and say thank you. It was indeed a very emotional occasion and it just reminded me of the Manus hospitality and kindness they show to outsiders when they visit. For a brief moment I was overwhelmed by the emotion but deep in my heart I was proud in calling this province my home.

On our way, we stopped at Lebei village and Sori Island, the two areas yet to cover however due to time factor caused by the unforeseen circumstances that hampered our program we just dropped off the awareness materials with the ward councillors of the respective villages before heading to town.

There is a stop-over island called Lirau where sea-farers from West coast Manus take a breather before continuing their journey to Lorengau. And there is another thing the island offers, a chance to call out or receive calls on your digicel mobile phone. It is no wonder the telecommunication company pride itself so highly or is it the magic of Lirau Island that leaves you mystified. That is when I received the "T&C" text message from Michael Efi (colleague at work) and as one would expect I got into the boat before anyone and called out to Judith and Dorothy to hurry because I had some banking to do. I sensed that the ladies were in the same frame of mind since they were beaming at their mobile phones as well.

We arrived at Lorengau boat shed at around 9am and headed straight to the Harbour-side hotel to refresh and do the final runs for the trip. By 10am we left for Manus Provincial Administration office to see the Administrator unfortunately he was in Port Moresby so we went to Lorengau police station instead. Mrs Tamo did inspection on the cell blocks while Judith and I talked to the inmates and gave them complaint forms to lodge complaints if they had any. Our final run was to the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) famously known as 'Maus bilong Chauka'.

"For a brief moment I was overwhelmed by the emotion but deep in my heart I was proud in calling this province my home."



The Lorengau market

The latter part of the afternoon was spent doing our banking and checking out the Manus craft market for the famous 'Manus basket' and the unique green snails for loved ones in Port Moresby.

The following day was bright and sunny but considering the province experiencing a lot of rainfall all year around, we checked out of the hotel early and headed to Momote airport for the trip back to Port Moresby. So there I was again, seat-belt safely fastened as the Air Niugini Fokker 100 sped off the runway and as if to grace the ocean, the plane ascended. My beloved island province grew thinner and thinner and gradually disappeared before my sight.

As they say, home is where the heart is and sure enough that saying was real that moment. But sometimes, you just have to let go to seek your dreams and aspiration elsewhere knowing that you will always return someday.

Thank you to the Commission for allowing this trip and my colleagues Ms Sauto and Mrs Tamo for a successful awareness program.



Flying over the islands of Manus

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